



# THE BANGLADESH TODAY

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SUNDAY

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## INTERNATIONAL

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## ROAD TO VICTORY

**War changes dramatically as Jessore, Jhenaidah, Sylhet, Maulvi Bazaar falls**

DHAKA : In a dramatic turn of events four major towns Jessore, Jhenaidah, Sylhet and Maulvi Bazaar fell to the advancing Mitra Bahini on Dec 7, 1971, reports BSS.

Jessore was considered the "prize catch" as it had a large cantonment, one of only three such installations then, and an airport. But Sylhet, too, was important. Not only because it had an airport as well but also the Heli-landing of men and material was to be a "dress-rehearsal" for things to come.

In the early morning, the Mitra Bahini quickly took over Jhenaidah. By noon they were moving towards Jessore town.

The Mitra Bahini faced stiff resistance at Kaliganj, on the way, but soon overcame it. By afternoon they had moved into Jessore including the cantonment and airport. Not a single shot was fired to defend the area by the Pakistani army instead they preferred a retreat to Khulna.

> (Contd. on page-11)



**Latif Siddique sick, taken to BSMMU**

DHAKA : Removed minister Abdul Latif Siddique, who was arrested for his anti-Islamic remarks, was taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) from Dhaka Central Jail after he fell sick at the jail on Saturday, reports UNB.

Latif, who has been suffering from heart problems, complained of chest pain at the prison around 11am, senior jail super Forman Ali told UNB.

He was taken to the BSMMU prison cell around 4pm as per doctors' advice following a check-up, Forman Ali added.



**Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting at Ganabhaban on Saturday.** Photo: PID

## Dhaka inks two deals with Thimphu

### TBT DESK

Bangladesh and Bhutan on Saturday penned two deals after official talks of two prime ministers, aiming for boosting trade and bilateral relations between two South Asian countries.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay witnessed the signing of the deals at Prime Minister Hasina's official Ganabhaban residence in the afternoon. Visiting Tshering Tobgay with a 26-member delegation and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led their respective sides at the official meeting.

The Foreign Ministers and Commerce Ministers of the two countries signed the deals of renewal of trade between Bangladesh and Bhutan, and allotment of

land in Dhaka's Baridhara for permanent Bhutanese diplomatic enclave in Dhaka.

Sources informed, "The meeting included water recourses, power generation, management, trade, connectivity and culture".

"A protocol relating to the trade agreement was also signed between the two countries", sources added.

Minister of Economic Affairs of Bhutan, Norbu Wangchuk and Commerce Minister of Bangladesh Tofail Ahmed signed the agreement on trade and related protocol.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bhutan Rinzin Dorje and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh AH Mahmud Ali signed the agreement on land allotment.

> (Contd. on page-11)

## BCB announce preliminary 30 man World Cup squad

### SPORTS REPORTER

BCB on Saturday announced their initial squad for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 in Australia and New Zealand.

Chairman of BCB National Selection Panel Faruque Ahmed said the 30-man squad is an accurate reflection of the resources on hand: "I believe we have picked the strongest 30 available to us at the moment. We have concentrated on creating back-ups for every position because it will be a long tournament. We have a good balance in the side with all areas covered."

"Most of the players who have been in or around the national team during the last six or seven months have been given a chance. There is a noticeable blend of youth and experience, said Faruque.

He added that most of the players who have been in or around the national team during the last six or seven months have been given a chance. "There is a noticeable

blend of youth and experience."

"The conditions in Australia and New Zealand will be a challenge for all the sub continental teams including Bangladesh. We cannot create those conditions here and that's why we have selected players based on performances in competitions they have appeared in and our intuition."

Primary Bangladesh Squad for ICC World Cup 2015:

Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmud Ullah, Tamim Iqbal, Marshall Ayub, Anamul Haque Bijooy, Shakib Al Hasan, Nasir Hossain, Mohammad Elias, Ziaur Rahman, Masrafe Bin Mortaza, Liton Kumar Das, Shafiu Islam, Abdur Razzak, Imrul Kayes, Al-Amin Hossain, Momtazul Hoque, Shamsur Rahman, Muktar Ali, Rubel Hossain, Shabbir Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Abul Hasan Raju, Arafat Sunny, Md Mithun, Soumya Sarkar, Taijul Islam, Shuvagata Hom, Naeem Islam, Jubair Hossain and Mohammed Sahid.

## BNP denies Khaleda Zia officials' meeting again

DHAKA : Trashing reports that there was a meeting between their party chief and government officials, BNP spokesman Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Saturday said it is Awami League, not BNP, which has the record of capturing power through plots, reports UNB.

"BNP or Khaleda Zia does not need to resort to conspiracy to go to power. Awami League is the only party which has the record of assuming power through conspiracies," he said. The BNP acting secretary general came up with the remarks while addressing a press conference at BNP chairperson's Gulshan Office. The press meet was arranged by the party to voice its reaction to Prime Minister's Friday's press conference on her recent Nepal and Malaysia tours.

He criticised Sheikh Hasina for what he said making indecent and indecorous comments about BNP its leaders and the country's revered and patriot citizens.

"The Awami League president as per her old habit, natural language and attitude made nasty, indecorous, and false comments against Khaleda Zia and patriot people. She made personal attacks on three-time PM Khaleda Zia and also made vengeful, foul and impolite remarks about her. I think there's no politician in any democratic country that uses such language about their rivals," Fakhrul pointed out. The BNP leader termed baseless the media reports about Khaleda's meeting with government officials at her office. "Our chairperson regularly holds meeting at her Gulshan Office as party leaders visit it. But the media reports on Thursday's meeting are unfounded."

## Gunmen kills school headmaster in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI : A school headmaster was gunned down and a local leader of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS-Santu Larma faction) injured in a gun attack in Manikchhari upazila on Saturday night, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Chingsa Mong Chowdhury, 55, headmaster of Tintohri High School in the upazila, while injured as Mongsafai Marma alias Japan Babu, president of Manikchhari upazila unit of PCJSS (Santu Larma).

Police and locals said a group of gunmen opened fire at the house of Japan Babu in the upazila bazar area around 7:40pm, leaving Chingsa Mong, who was in the house, dead on the spot and Japan Babu injured. Babu was taken to the upazila health complex.

## 10 RMG workers hurt in Gazipur gas cylinder blast

GAZIPUR : At least 10 workers of a readymade garment factory were injured as a gas cylinder exploded in a garment factory in Chandra Palli Bidyut area of Kaliakoir upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

Industrial Police sources said a gas cylinder of Ehsan Composite Ltd factory went off with a big bang around 11 am, leaving 10 workers injured. Among the injured, five were rushed to DMCH while the others received first aid.

## Islamic parties seek new law by Dec 25 for Latif's capital punishment

DHAKA : Sammilito Islami Dal Samuho, a coalition of Islamic parties, here on Saturday gave the government until December 25 for enacting a new law with a provision of capital punishment to bring those who defame Islam, including former minister Latif Siddique, to justice, reports UNB.

Maulana Zafrullah Khan, secretary general of the coalition, made the announcement from a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. The coalition also announced some fresh programmes, including submission of a memorandum to the PM through dy commissioners following demonstration rallies in all districts on Dec 10, and mass-awareness raising programme, mass campaign and views-exchange in support of capital punishment for atheists.

## 53000 flee to Malaysia, Thailand from Bangladesh, Myanmar

### STAFF REPORTER

According to a new UNHCR report around 53,000 people went to Malaysia and Thailand from Bangladesh and Myanmar between January and November 2014. They estimated that 54,000 people have undertaken irregular maritime journeys till date.

On the other hand, Refugee Agency based on reports by local sources, media and people who survived the journeys stated that Hundreds of others followed routes through the Indian Ocean from South Asia and Indonesia to Australia and across the Strait of Malacca from Malaysia to Indonesia despite of the known struggles.

The number of this outflow increased and reached the highest peak on October, stated the report titled 'Irregular Maritime Movements in South-East Asia' prepared by UNHCR Regional Office on January-

November 2014.

The out flow was more than that of the year before. The number increased by a percentile amount of 37. The amount of departure last year was around 21,000, which included Rohingya and Bangladeshis. Amongst them about 10 percent are believed to be women. Roughly one-third of arrivals interviewed by UNHCR in Thailand and Malaysia were minors under 18 years of age. Moreover, children as young as eight years old are known to have made the journey alone.

The total number of departures since 2012 ranges around 120,000, with payments ranging from US\$1,600 to US\$2,400 demanded for each passenger, smugglers plying this route are believed to have generated nearly US\$250 million in revenue in the last three years.

## Khaleda's plot won't work as people ditched her: Ershad

DHAKA : Accusing BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia of conspiring by holding a meeting with government officials, Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad on Saturday said her party's plot will not work as people

have dumped it, reports UNB.

"She (Khaleda) is now conspiring and holding meetings at her office. Making plots won't help as people have ditched you," he said.

Ershad, also an especial

envoy to the Prime Minister, came up with the harsh remarks while addressing a discussion arranged by his party in front of its Kakrail office marking 'Constitution Protection Day'.

While BNP and some other political organisations observe December 6 as the 'Democracy Free Day' or 'Fall of Autocrat Day' commemorating Ershad's bowing out in the face of a mass upheaval on the day in 1990, Jatiya Party marks it as 'Constitution Protection Day'.

Ershad said many people say many things about December 6 and some people call it 'Fall of Autocrat Day'. "We call it Constitution Protection Day' as I resigned on that day as per the constitution to safeguard it.



**Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad addressing a discussion meeting at the central party office yesterday.** Photo: Banglar Chokh

## Police under political control: Akbar Ali Khan

### STAFF REPORTER

Speaking at a discussion meeting organized marking the 7th anniversary of separation of the judiciary, at the Jatiya Press Club, former caretaker government adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan expressed his disappointment over the current police administration and denoted that they are under full political control. He also stated that the situation will worsen if any stern action is not taken immediately.

He said, "if the necessary laws for the police are not amended and the police commission isn't formed, the situation will go out of control."

He added, "before the separation of the judiciary from the executive branch, there was a certain control of magistracy over the police

which the British rulers had introduced in the country. Then there was a nominal system to control the police...nowhere in the world police are controlled by the judiciary."

He included that the separation of the judiciary from the executive branch is not the only solution but it is necessary to bring changes in the police administration.

Dr Akbar also stated the huge judicial backlog and delay in the disposal of cases has put the country's judiciary at stake.

"If it takes 50-100 years for settling the cases, then this judicial system is meaningless for people. In this situation, we can't say there's any judicial system in the country right now," he said.

> (Contd. on page-11)



## Namaz Timings

### Today

	Start	Jamaat
Fajr	05:10 AM	05:45 AM
Zohr	11:55 PM	01:15 PM
Asr	03:35 PM	04:15 PM
Magrib	05:13 PM	05:15 PM
Esha	06:35 PM	07:30 PM

### Tahajjud After midnight

Source: Islamic Foundation

SUNSET : 05:11 PM  
SUNRISE : 06:28 AM



**Dr Akbar Ali Khan addressing a discussion meeting at the National Press Club marking the 7th anniversary of separation of the Judiciary.** Photo: Banglar Chokh



Nine Dhaka University students of Dept. of Mathematics, who got A F Muzibur Rahman gold medal, posed with DU VC and distinguished guests on Saturday.

## Nine DU students get AF Mujibur Rahman gold medal

DHAKA : Some nine students of Dhaka University (DU) Mathematics Department got AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation gold medals for their outstanding academic results in BS Honours and MS examinations, reports UNB.

Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique distributed the gold medals and certificates among the awardees as chief guest at a function at AF Mujibur Rahman Ganit Bhaban of the university. Mathematics Department

Chairman Prof Amulya Chandra Mandal presided over the function while trustee of AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation and Professor of London School of Economics, UK, Dr Naila Kabeer addressed it as special guest.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Siddique thanked the AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation for providing gold medals to DU meritorious students and hoped that the students would be benefited and encouraged by this donation.

He said AF Mujibur Rahman had

dedicated his entire life to promote socio-economic development of the country. Awardees are: Farzana Islam (MS), Sanjida Islam (MS), Farhana Ahmed Simi (BS), Md Alomgir Hossain Badsha (MS), Chinmayee Podder (MS), Kamrun Naher (MS), Kamrunaher (MS), Md Lokman Hossen (MS) and Shahenur Begum (MS). Later, the vice-chancellor inaugurated the newly constructed 'AF Mujibur Rahman Ganit Bhaban' at the university.

## Shajahan urges youths to uproot militancy, communalism

DHAKA : Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday called upon the youths to step forward for uprooting militancy, communalism and drug abuse from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

"It is not enough to wipe out only the garbage from college campus....we have to eradicate the junk in the form of militancy, communalism and drug abuse from the country."

The minister was speaking as the chief guest the inaugural programme of campus cleaning campaign titled, "Clean Campus, Safe Campus" organised by the student wing of Bangladesh Chharta League (BCL) unit of Kabi Nazrul Government College on its premises in city's old part.

Principal of the college Dr Nurun Nahar, vice-principal Rafikul Islam, Awami League sub-committee assistant secretary Golam Sarwar Kabir and BCL vice-president Ziaul Huque Zia spoke with BCL college unit president Mamunur Rashid Mamun in the chair. Referring to the meeting of BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia with some government officials and employees, the minister said, "She (Begum Zia) is making plots sitting in home ... BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam said that Khaleda did not meet with any government official while Barrister Rafikul Islam said she met...lying is their habit." The minister also called for making clean the rivers of the country.

### ANUB expresses concern over Bar Council issue

An executive committee meeting of the Association of Non-Government Universities of Bangladesh (ANUB) was held recently, says a press release.

The members of the ANUB expressed their deep concern for the recent declaration of the Bangladesh Bar Council regarding enrollment and registration of 2 year LLB pass course and 4 years LLB honors course of private universities.

Besides, in a recent declaration of Bangladesh Bar Council, stated that 2 years LLB passed students from private universities would not be permitted for appearing in the enrollment examination. Further it was mentioned in that decision, 2 years LLB passed students would not be allowed to seat for examination for getting registration of Bar Council. Moreover, henceforth, no more than 50 students per year of 4 year LLB honors course of private universities be permitted to seat for enrollment examination for registration by the Bar Council. There are no comments on the 2 years LLB course of National Universities of Bar Council.

The recent decision of Bar Council is found non-compliant according to the Private Universities Act-2010 as felt by the association. The private universities can enroll students as per their teaching ability. There is no such clause in the Private Universities Act-2010 that could be implemented the recommendation given by the Bar Council.

### AK Azad, Babu re-elected BCI president, GS

DHAKA : AK Azad and Mostafa Azad Chowdhury Babu have been re-elected President and Senior Vice-President respectively of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) for the next two-year term, reports UNB.

Shamsur Rahman has been elected Vice President of the trade body, said a BCI media release on Saturday. The election to the BCI board was held on Saturday at the BCI office after the annual general meeting of the trade body.



Bangladesh Labour Party on Saturday formed a human chain in front of National Press Club, demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to five fake freedom-fighters secretaries and 186 official culprits who had linkage with the fake certificates.

### Inu condoles death of Freedom Fighter Habibullah Khan

DHAKA : Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, MP, in a condolence message expressed deep sympathy at the death of Freedom Fighter Habibullah Khan (Innallillahhey.....rajeun) He was 65, reports UNB.

Habibullah died today in the morning following a heart attack.

Khan was a former member of the Muktijuddha Central Command Council and commander of the Civil Aviation Muktijuddha Command Council.

He joined the civil aviation authority, Bangladesh in 1974 and retired as its director ( safety and regulation).

After retirement from civil aviation, he joined the Young One Group as a director.

Later he joined Fu-Wang Group as its managing director.

His namaz-i-janaza will be held after Magreb prayer today at Banani Jame Masjid.

He will be buried with full state honor at Banani Graveyard.

Habibullah is survived by his wife and two daughters.

## Mega LPG bottling plant planned to ease household gas demand

DHAKA : The government is going ahead with a plan for establishing a mega plant for bottling, supplying and marketing of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to ease the ever increasing household demand for natural gas, reports UNB.

With an annual capacity of bottling 1,00,000 tons of LPG, the plant will be established under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) at Kumira or any other suitable place in Chittagong district. Besides bottling, the plant will have jetty and pipeline for getting supply of LPG and tank for its storage.

Secretary of Energy and Mineral Resources Division of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry Abu Bakar Siddique told BSS that the initiative had already been taken to appoint a consultant for the project.

Already, he said, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved in principle the proposal of the Energy Ministry to set up the LPG bottling plant under the PPP.

According to the proposal, the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will set up the plant

under PPP involving Taka 248.41 crore. It will also need Taka 22.08 crore for development of 10 acres of land. The plant will require a working capital of Taka 78.10 crore in the first year besides the project cost.

The plant will import LPG from Singapore, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi) and Kuwait for bottling.

"If we set up the LPG bottling plant, it will help reduce the dependency on the traditional piped gas supply and help meet the demand for LPG gas," Siddique added.

Currently, 1,00,000 tons in bottles are being marketed by public and private companies against the annual demand of 5,00,000 tons. Of the 1,00,000 tons, two state-owned plants - one at Patenga in Chittagong and another at Koilashtila in Sylhet - are sourcing 20,000 tons of bottled LPG a year. The remaining 80,000 tons of LPG is being imported and bottled by a number of private companies.

Energy experts along with the development partners like the Asian Development Bank (ADB) suggested that

the country should set up LPG bottling plant to meet the household gas demand while ensuring productive use of the gas reserve. The piped gas also covers only 8-10 percent of total households in the country.

### Wuppertal University delegation calls on JU VC

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY : A two-member delegation of Chemistry Department of University of Wuppertal, Germany today called on Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Professor Farzana Islam at the latter's office here, reports UNB.

Other members of the delegation were Professor Dr Thorten Benter and Professor Dr Ralf Kurtenbach.

During the meeting, the German delegation expressed willingness to give support to the JU for environment related activities.



Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman on Saturday addressed a program at Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla primary school, where the trencher of Dhaka Primary Teachers' Training Institute was inaugurated. Photo: Banglar Chokh.

## Digitised banking proved effective for women: BB governor

DHAKA : Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Atiur Rahman on Saturday said the digitised banking system encourages the country's women to participate more in the financial services, narrowing the gender disparity down, reports UNB.

"The rapidly digitised banking enabled mobile financial services to encourage the women more to participate in the financial services narrowing the gender disparity down since it may not even require their physical presence in the financial institutions to receive financial services," he said.

The BB governor made the remark while addressing the inaugural session of the Annual Banking Conference 2014 organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) at its Mirpur-2 office in the capital.

Highlighting the central bank's activities, he said, a countrywide massive modernisation of the financial sector IT infrastructure, including fully automated online settlement of paper based and electronic fund transfers, online credit information and supervisory reporting, have spawned exponential growth of mobile phone banking, vastly benefitting the underserved poor.

Dr Atiur said the central bank is active in spearheading initiatives of putting in place and upgrading countrywide connectivity backbone for the interbank settlements infrastructure; individual banks will need to be correspondingly proactive in installing and upgrading their own IT platforms in line with rapidly growing and evolving needs.

"With the progress already achieved in online interbank settlements and in mobile telephony, banks can and should now move fast in expanding mobile phone or smart card based banking services reaching out to new depositors and borrower customers in rural and itinerant urban populations."

He said a school banking programme has started to inculcate the savings habit among the youngsters. "Also the initiative of

opening bank account for street children is another milestone to enhance its financial inclusion programme and bring more unbanked people in its umbrella."

Referring to the emerging challenges to climate change, the governor said the central bank has taken the lead in promoting environmentally benign innovations like harnessing solar energy, biogas, effluent treatment plant and Hybrid Hoffman Kiln for the brickfields as well as generating electricity from biogas, employing solar irrigation pumps and encouraging the banks to finance setting up of solar energy panels in households and business establishments.

On the other hand, Dr Atur said, the total bank accounts, including school and mobile banking stood at around 84 million by the end of 2013 from only nearly 38 million in 2009.

"The number of bank branches per 1000 sq km area increased to 59 from 48 during this period. The ATM penetration per 1000sq km also increased to 35.5 per cent from just 8 during 2009-2012," he added.

### Worker dies from toxic gas inhalation in Bogra

BOGRA : A worker died and ten others fell sick after inhaling toxic gas while repairing the coal chamber of a ceramic factory in Birkedar area of Kahalu upazila on Saturday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Alim, a resident of Darial village of the upazila.

Workers of the factory said 11 workers of AB Ceramic factory of the area fell sick after inhaling toxic gas while repairing coal chamber of the factory at noon.

They were rushed to Bogra Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where Alim died.

Mostak Ahmed, Manager of the factory, confirmed the incident.

### ICT Division launch 'Mobile Apps Development' programme

DHAKA : The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division launched a programme on 'Mobile Apps Development' here in the capital on Saturday, reports UNB.

Under the programme, 500 young people from the seven divisions will take training on the development of mobile applications and develop 500 android-based applications.

Speaking at the inaugural seminar of the programme at Bangladesh Computer Council Auditorium, State Minister for ICT Junaid Ahmed Polok urged all concerned for exploring the advances of mobile technology.

"Mobile has brought the whole world in the grips of the people. It changed the country. Mobile has been playing a great role in the changes in life-style, thought, reaction and way or work of crores of people across the globe including Bangladesh," he said.

The junior minister noted that the government has initiated the 'Mobile Apps Development' programme for making use of the 'universal appeal' of mobile technology for the development of the country.



A huge victory procession was brought out in Kurigram district on Saturday in observance of Kurigram Freedom Day that paraded the major streets of the town. Photo : Badshah Shaikat

# Need for comprehensive child-friendly juvenile justice system stressed

RAJSHAHI : There should be a comprehensive child-friendly juvenile justice system in the country to protect the rights of the children who committed different types of crimes for their proper correction, speakers at a participatory discussion here said yesterday.

They viewed that a legal reform has become an urgent task to bring together all legislations dealing with children in one act in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international standards.

The observation came at a divisional workshop styled "Probation System in Bangladesh Perspective: Alternative to Imprisonment and Safe Custody" held at Hotel Warishan in Rajshahi city.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organized the workshop in association with Community Legal Services Project with the main thrust of devising ways and means on how to ensure a comprehensive child-friendly

juvenile justice system in the country.

The discussants termed the adolescents as an important section of the society and said they need special care and positive behaviors from their near and dear ones during their adolescent period.

With BLAST local unit president Advocate Najmus Sadaat in the chair, Senior Jail Superintendent Shafiqul Islam Khan, Deputy Director of Department of Social Services Abdul Mannan, Senior Judicial Magistrates Khandaker ATM Tofayel and Selim Reja and BLAST Assistant Director (Advocacy and Communication) Mahbuba Akter spoke on the occasion as focal persons on the issue.

Hasibul Alam Prodhana, a teacher of Department of Law in Rajshahi University, and BLAST Consultant Advocate Tajul Islam presented two concept papers on Children Act-2013 and its enforcement and Probation system respectively.

Around 50 persons comprising judges, lawyers, jail, probation and social service officials, human rights activists and journalists from different districts under Rajshahi division attended the workshop.

The participants said school and college students should be acquainted with the existing laws relating to the criminal offenses for setting their mindset about how to abide by the laws. Many of the teenagers commit different types of crimes, including the major ones, due to lack of knowledge about the existing laws.

Time has come to overcome this problem and protect the young generation from being prosecuted, they added.

In the plenary session, they said continuous capacity building of front line workers such as police, magistrates, judges, probation officers and social workers will be conducted through their training institutes and regular curricula.

# Male-female joint efforts for establishing women rights stressed

RANGPUR : Speakers at a daylong women activist conference here yesterday stressed for joint efforts of both males and females for establishing equal rights of women in every sphere of the society, reports BSS.

They were addressing the fifth "Women Activists' Conference -2014" organised by RDRS Bangladesh with the theme of "Let's Move with Firm Determination of Stopping Violence against Women" at its Rangpur office premises in the city.

Executive Director of RDRS Bangladesh Dr Selima Rahman formally inaugurated the daylong conference by releasing balloons and addressed it as the chief guest with Head (Programme Coordination) of the NGO Monjusree Saha in the chair.

Head (Human Resources) of RDRS Bangladesh Sabrina Samsad, its Head (Finance) Zoardar Tahmina Afroz, Head (Microcredit) Humayun Khaled and Head (Health) Dr Md Zakiul Islam

Faruki addressed the conference as the special guests.

Over 800 women activists of RDRS Bangladesh from 13 districts under its working area, its incumbent and former officials, leading women leaders, members of various professional organisations, civil society members and journalists participated.

Taking part in the discussion, the speakers highly lauded the activities of RDRS Bangladesh being conducted since the past 43 years and achieved successes in different fields of seriocomic development of the socially backward people.

They said the NGO has been conducting its activities with an institutional gender sensitive attitude since the beginning with a view to preserve women rights and enhance women empowerment to eradicate gender discriminations from the society.

The NGO has established itself as a successful development organisation

through largely contributing in the fields of socioeconomic uplift and establishing equal men and women rights in the society by overcoming many hurdles, they said.

The chief guest said RDRS Bangladesh has organised the conference as solidarity with observance of the International Women Repression Prevention Fortnight- 2014 by the United Nations from November 25 to December 10.

"With this conference, RDRS Bangladesh wants to declare its determination of stopping violence against women for establishing women rights with male-female cooperation and mutual respect to accelerate social advancement and uplift," she said.

A number of stalls were set up in office premises of the NGO by its women activists from different districts displaying various publications and documentary films on their success in establishing women rights.



The construction work of Saidpur Smriti Shoudho has been halted due to financial crisis. Photo : Banglar Chokh

## Journalist Mushfiqul Fazal received 'Shotirtho Shojon' award

Staff Reporter

Journalist Mushfiqul Fazal Ansari recently received "Shotirtho Shojon" award. He is the editor of online newspaper Just News, and anchor of the popular tv show of NTV "Hello Excellency."

He received the award for his contribution of naming a street on former president of Bangladesh Ziaur Rahman in Chicago, USA.

He received the award on a cultural program at Bikash center on Wednesday. Joint secretary of BNP Adv Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and journalist Shafiq Rehman presented him the award. Among others president of national press club Kamal Uddin Shabuj, prominent singer Fatematz Zohra, Salauddin Ahmed etc spoke at the occasion.

## Bagerhat AL orrespondent meeting held

Nihar Ranjan Saha, Bagerhat Correspondent

Bagerhat AL correspondent meeting was held at district parishad auditorium on Saturday.

Recently elected president of local committee under Ministry of Social Affairs Alhaj Dr. Mozammel Hossain MP inaugurated the day long meeting.

Among others general secretary of district AL Sheikh Kamruzzaman Tuku, joint secretary of district AL Adv Mir Showkat Ali Badshah, organizing secretary of district AL Khan Habibur Rahman, etc gave speeches on the meeting.

## Women need vocational training for self-reliance: speakers

RAJSHAHI : Speakers at a discussion said womenfolk could become the driving force of development if they were imparted training on different trades, vocations and proper employment, reports BSS.

They viewed there is no alternative to build skilled human resources to make the country self-reliant besides economic emancipation.

The entrepreneurs should come forward towards establishing small and medium industries in the region to create employment opportunities for regional development, they added.

They were addressing a seminar titled "Creation of Employment Opportunities for trained women and Strengthening Industry Linkage" held at conference hall of Rajshahi Women Technical Training Center (RW TTC) here yesterday.

RW TTC organised the seminar in association with Skills and Training Enhancement Project where a number of prominent businessmen, social workers, women entrepreneur, industry owners and bankers attended.

Commissioner of Rajshahi Division Helaluddin Ahmed addressed the programme as the chief guest with Nazmul Haque, Principal of RW TTC, in the chair.

President of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Moniruzzaman, Chief Engineer of Rajshahi City Corporation Ashrafal Haque and business leader Shamsuddin Ahmed also spoke.

The chief guest said need-based vocational training for the women coming from poor families is very important but their post-training employment has become an urgent need for eradicating unemployment problem. He viewed that the persons with technical education can contribute a lot in the country.

# Feni and Jhenaidah Freedom Day observed

## District Correspondents

Our Gaibandha correspondent Rafiqul Islam reports that, today December 7 is the Gaibandha freedom day. On this day in 1971, Mahbub Elahi (Bir Pratik) entered Gaibandha town with a large group of freedom fighters while two other groups reached Sunderganj and Saghata. On that day, Pakistan occupation forces left all their camps in Gaibandha district.

Freedom fighters together with local people will bring out a victory procession in Gaibandha town and hold a discussion on the occasion.

Our Feni correspondent Md Muhibullah Farhad reports that, the Feni freedom day was observed yesterday with a fresh call for building the Sonar Bangla as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to make independence

meaningful for every citizen.

To mark the day The district unit of Muktiyoddha Command, district Gorilla Muktiyoddha Kalyan Parishad and district Muktiyoddha Santan Command, separately brought out a three huge victory processions. Later a discussion was held district Shahid Minar premises, which was organized by district unit of Muktiyoddha Command. Retd Lt. Cornel Jafar Imam Bir Bikram was present as the chief guest on the meeting.

Our Jhenaidah correspondent S I Mallick reports that, the Jhenaidah freedom day was observed yesterday with full of joy and enthusiasm.

To mark the day district Muktiyoddha Sansad chalked out various programs including placing of floral wreaths at the martyrs' memorial, hoisting of the national flag, bringing out of a huge victory procession and discussion meeting.



Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement ( BDERM) Magura district formed a human chain at Chourongi square of Magura district in observance of World Human Dignity Day on Saturday. Photo : Rokibul Hoque Dipu

# World Human Dignity Day observed in Magura

## Rokibul Hoque Dipu, Magura Correspondent

World human dignity day was observed in Magura on Saturday. Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement ( BDERM) Magura district unit took different programs in observance of the day on Friday.

They brought out rally in the town in the morning. Subsequently they fabricated a

human chain at Chourongi square of the town. The programs ended with a discussion meeting at Abdul hoque Memorial foundation office. Dr Tashiquzzaman general secretary of the foundation delivered the welcome address with president of the foundation Hinuka parvin in the chair. Uttam Kuamar Dash general secretary of BDERM , Magura district unit moderated the meeting.

# Companies lure farmers to grow tobacco

RANGAMATI : Cultivators have brought more than 1,000 hectares of land under tobacco farming in different areas in the Chittagong hill districts ignoring widespread campaign by the government and NGOs against tobacco cultivation, reports BSS.

Tobacco cultivation in the hill districts began decades back, but in the recent years it boomed because tobacco companies succeeded in luring cultivators to tobacco farming.

Companies like British American Tobacco, Dhaka Tobacco, Abul Khayer, Akij, Nasir and Bengal are front runners in alluring cultivators. They have set up offices and employed workers to lure farmers. There is no other industry here which can generate employment.

The representatives of these companies regularly visit villages, train farmers on tobacco cultivation, give them seeds and interest-free loans. It worked well as tobacco has now emerged a major crop in the districts.

In the past, for generations, farmers produced paddy, wheat, vegetables and mustard. After fulfilling family needs, they used to sell out the surplus products. But rising production cost and low prices of the crops have held them in constant hardship.

Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Naresh Chandra Baroi said national and multinational cigarette companies are still providing financial and logistic support to the farmers to continue tobacco production.

However, the government and non-government organizations have been motivating farmers for the last couple of years to switch over to other crops suitable for the areas, he added.

Ratan Chakma, a farmer at Bilchhari village of Lama upazila said he is cultivating tobacco for last couple of years. This year he cultivated tobacco on five acres of land where he used to grow paddy. Like him, Kasi Mong, Sadan Marma, Polash Pru and many others grew tobacco on their paddy growing lands.

About 10,000 farmers in the districts have enlisted their names as tobacco growers this year. Farmers at different villages said tobacco brings windfall profits for them. The tobacco companies, moreover, provide them with seeds, fertilisers and other inputs and necessary technical support to grow tobacco.

Tobacco processing is causing serious

environmental and health hazards in the region as many people are affected with various respiratory problems and skin diseases due to burning of firewood required for processing, said Naresh Chandra.

Additional Director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) Mudsudye said DAE is trying its best to discourage farmers to cultivate tobacco and providing them training on cultivating other alternative crops.

Bangladesh is among the five most affected countries by tobacco in the world. On an average, 165 people die every day due to disease caused by tobacco consumption.

# Migratory birds start arriving in northern Bangladesh

RANGPUR : The migratory birds have started arriving to the water bodies, beels, haors, marshy lands and major rivers in northern Bangladesh from the Himalayan and Siberian regions giving a descent look to the nature, reports BSS.

The number of arriving migratory birds marked fall in recent years as the Himalayan, Siberian, Nepal, Xinian and Mongolian regions turned habitable to some extent for the birds even during the winters following rise in temperatures due to climate change.

According to local people, Bali Duck, Samukal, Bright, Rose King, Bali Lenja, Chity, Sorail, Boikal, Nilshir, Piyang, Pankouri, Rangamuri, Pintail, Pantamukhi, Chokhakochki and Khonjona are now being found flocking to the water bodies in the region.

These birds, though little less in number, are now being found in Noonkhawa, Madarganj, Narayanpur, Berubari, Jatrapur, Begumganj, Hatia, Kodalkati, Astomirchar, Noyarhat, Mohanganj, Ketabkhan, Tazerhat and other places in the Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers.

Local people have been observing arrival of the migratory birds in water of the Neel Sagar (Binnya Dighee) in Nilphamari, vast char areas in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat and Alta Dighee water body of Dhamoirhat upazila in Naogaon district.

## Speeding up initiatives for a South Asian energy grid

Inadequate energy, specially power, to drive economic growth is a common problem faced all over South Asia. In recent years, power insufficiency is noted in all major countries of the South Asian region. Bangladesh has reduced the gap between its demand for power and the supply significantly in the last couple of years. But the same cannot be said about neighbouring India and Pakistan where long hours of load shedding remains a serious problem.

But this is unfortunate because the region as a whole has great potentialities to overcome its present power shortages and even generate surpluses. A study said that Arunachal Pradesh of India, Nepal and Bhutan have great hydro power potentials. Bhutan alone can possibly generate 30,000 mw of hydro electricity. More significant is the finding that the costs of producing such hydro power would be very cheap compared to the present conventional means of producing power.

The graduating to such a state basically calls for a regional initiative. Individually, the burden of producing all the power it needs for the present and the future can be an uphill task for the main South Asian countries. But once these countries decide to work decisively in unison and get down to actually cooperating for augmenting power production on a regional basis, to build up enabling infrastructures to that end, then power production in South Asia can see dramatic increases to contribute to shared benefits of all the countries in the region.

A recent media report highlighted the maturing of such a regional initiative. Called the South Asian Regional Initiative (SARI), the plan seeks to very substantially increase the production of power in the region. The plan is geared mainly to tapping the vast hydro power potentials of the region specially in Nepal, Bhutan and in the north eastern Indian states. These countries have so far tapped only a meagre part of their hydro power production possibilities.

But with planned efforts, vast amounts of hydro power can be produced and sent to a regional grid for use by the South Asian countries. The report mentioned that USAID has granted US\$ 9 million for the project and a major meeting to push through this plan is scheduled soon. A six-member joint technical team is already working in India and Bangladesh to establish a common power grid in South Asia.

It is imperative for the leadership of the South Asian countries to realize the great merit of helping the implementation of this plan at the fastest for their collective advancement.

## Will 'saffron warriors' veto Modi's agenda?

By Amulya Ganguli

It is perhaps in the natural order of things that when a party vanquishes its opponents, its nemesis emerges from within its own ranks. This is what appears to be happening in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

If it thought that the party's majority in the Lok Sabha would enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to implement his development agenda without any hindrance, then it must have realised by now that the road ahead will be a lot more bumpy than it expected. What is more, the hurdles are being put up not by an opposition which is in disarray, but by the words and deeds of what can be called the loony fringe of the saffron brigade.

The most appalling of their despicable antics has been the abuses hurled by BJP MP Niranjan Jyoti, who is purportedly a sadhvi or a Hindu nun, at rival politicians. This new saffron warrior is evidently carrying on the vituperative traditions of other sadhvis like Rithambara and Uma Bharati.

While Rithambara once called for an apocalyptic communal outbreak - "khooon kharabaa" - to settle scores with Muslims, Uma Bharati had joyously urged the Babri masjid demolishers to give one last big push to topple the ancient mosque.

Now, their worthy descendant, Niranjan Jyoti, has confirmed that the saffron sadhvis are not known so much for their serene spirituality as for their provocative rants.

Exposing the BJP's real face

However, her appeal to the Delhi voters in anticipation of an early election to distinguish between the Ramzadas or the children of Ram, and "haramzadas" or the children of illicit unions, has exposed - yet again - the BJP's ugly, and what some may say its real, face. True, the party extracted an apology from her, but it will be mistaken if it believes that the apparently forced contrition will draw a curtain over this offensive episode, which persuaded the prime minister to condemn it in parliament - something which he didn't do in the cases of other provocative incidents such as Yogi Adityanath's campaign against the so-called 'love jihad' carried by Muslims youths to entice and convert Hindu girls, or Sakshi Maharaj's claim that madrasas are training centres of terrorists. Both the purported Yogi (savant) and Maharaj (king of kings) are honourable MPs.

Despite Modi's appeal for calm, what the latest incidents has confirmed is that the party comprises elements whose conduct hardly meets the norms of polite society. What is worrisome is not only their medieval mindset, as is evident from the extolling of astrology at the expense of science by an MP, Ramesh Pokhriyal, "all streams of science are short in stature when compared with the science of astrology", but that the soothing words which a few in the top rungs speak about harmonious communal relations seem to have no effect on large sections in the party.

It is not just the rank and file alone who remain steeped in the anti-minority prejudices and antediluvian worldview of the standard Hindutva (Hindu nationalist) formulations, but also Union ministers, who include someone like Giriraj Singh, whose claim to infamy was his stirring call to critics of Modi to go to Pakistan.

As if the vulgarities of the sadhvi were not enough, the arson attack on a church in Delhi fuelled speculation that the BJP is playing the communal card in the run-up to the Delhi polls. Such fears were expressed during the communal riots in the Trilokpuri area and again when tensions flared on the eve of the Muharram processions in Bawana.

**Amulya Ganguli is a political analyst**  
**Source : Gulf News**

## Ashton Carter wields history as guide to effective policymaking

GOPAL RATNAM

Most accounts of Ash Carter's education mention his doctoral degree in theoretical physics but often overlook his bachelor's degree in medieval history. Many reports also paint Carter as a trigger-happy, shoot-first, ask-questions-later type of military thinker because he once called for bombing North Korea.

But a broad look at Carter's media interviews and published work reveals a man who's as cautious about the use of American military power as President Barack Obama and not very different from Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel - the man Carter may replace as the Pentagon chief.

Those in Congress who see Carter as a possible hawkish counterweight to Obama may be disappointed in the potential nominee's measured take on a wide range of foreign-policy issues that would confront him as the next defence secretary if he's nominated: Terrorism, the rise of Daesh (the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant), the US presence in Afghanistan, ties with Asian allies, and Iran's nuclear ambitions. Some of Carter's past writings, meanwhile, could be grist for Republicans looking to slow his confirmation or to use the hearings as a chance to cudgel Obama.

Iran is likely to be a major flashpoint. During his disastrous January 2013 confirmation hearings, Hagel garbled the Obama administration's stated policy on Iran's nuclear programme by saying the White House supports "containment." Hagel had to then quickly, and embarrassingly, reverse himself and say the administration's policy was actually predicated on preventing Tehran from ever acquiring a bomb in the first place.

If nominated, Carter would almost certainly face tough questions about whether he would be willing to accept the idea of containing a nuclear Iran, a toxic idea on Capitol Hill.

In an essay published in 2008 by the Centre for a New American Security about US options for dealing with Iran, Carter argues that military force alone wouldn't be enough to keep Iran from going nuclear and should instead be part of a "complete strategy integrating political, economic, and military elements."

Air strikes may not decisively stop Iran's nuclear ambitions and instead may spur the country to achieve its goals through subterfuge, making it more likely that the US would have to be satisfied with containing a nuclear Iran, Carter wrote.

Writing like the diligent student of Yale and Oxford he once was, Carter noted, "My assigned topic is 'military options for dealing with Iran's nuclear programme', but I have re-titled this paper to reflect" that the use of armed force against Iran couldn't be divorced from a broader strategy to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions. Instead, Carter gave his paper a new heading: 'Military Elements in a Strategy to Deal with Iran's Nuclear Programme'.

The reason for the new title, he wrote, "is that whenever military action is

contemplated, one must ask the question, 'What happens next?'"

The phrase echoes Obama's own ambivalence about the use of martial power to achieve national goals, particularly in a country as large, militarily powerful, and strategically important as Iran.

Carter described how American planners would have to analyse the effectiveness of potential US air strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, drawing on Israel's experience in destroying Iraq's Osirak reactor in 1981 and the planned - but never carried out - US strike against North Korea's Yongbyon complex in 1994.

"Unfortunately, a strike on Iran's nuclear complexes would not have as decisive a technical result" as the Iraqi or planned North Korean strikes, Carter wrote. The biggest impediment to shutting down Iran's programme with such strikes would be if Iran had a "parallel, secret, and undiscovered enrichment programme" that was somehow further along than its known facilities, Carter wrote.

Resetting diplomatic table  
"Air strikes on the Iranian nuclear programme or other targets could conceivably reset the diplomatic table in pursuit of a negotiated end to the nuclear programme, but they could also easily overturn the diplomatic table," he wrote.

A large-scale military assault on Iran "would presumably be incompatible with a return to negotiations with the current Iranian government and must be seen as part of the major alternative to negotiating a curb in Iran's nuclear programme: A strategy of containment of an Iran destined to go nuclear," Carter wrote.

After writing that paper Carter, went on to serve in the Obama administration, first as the Pentagon's top weapons buyer and later as the deputy secretary of defence.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration has pursued some of the policy options Carter laid out in the 2008 essay: A combination of tough economic sanctions and vigorous diplomacy designed to stop Iran from enriching nuclear fuel that can be used to make bombs. Those efforts led to a November 2013 agreement under which the West loosened some of the sanctions on Iran in exchange for a temporary cessation of Iran's enrichment activities. A long-term deal to halt Tehran's production of bomb-grade nuclear fuel, however, has been elusive. Late last month, the US and its partners reluctantly agreed to a seven-month extension after the latest November 24 deadline for a deal failed to produce one.

Obama has been criticised for suggesting that American military power has its limits, drawing fire for remarks like a May 2014 speech arguing that "just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail." Carter has been similarly cautious about assuming that every problem has a military solution.

"We are necessary to the solution of many world problems. But we're not sufficient anymore," Carter said in a July

2014 interview with Charlie Rose on PBS, months after leaving his job as the deputy defence secretary. "That doesn't have to do with the diminution in our power relative to others, it has to do with the way the world works - how widespread technology is; how widespread social media are... the ability of people everywhere to participate more."

Intransigence of Al Assad  
That means that whether it was "Iraq today, Syria today, Afghanistan, and so forth, the way you approach them today as the US is I think to recognise that we are a necessary but usually not sufficient force to affect the policy objective we're seeking," Carter said, using the type of language that led Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Martin Dempsey to affectionately refer to him last year as an "uber-wonk."

Asked by Rose if the US could have done anything to stop the emergence of Daesh - as many critics of the Obama administration allege - Carter blamed the group's ascendancy on the Syrian civil war careening out of control and sidestepped the issue of whether Washington should have gotten involved earlier in the conflict.

"I think if the Syrian war hadn't raged out of control for four or five years, clearly an environment in which a group like Daesh could arm itself and propel itself into western Iraq... would not have, would not have occurred," Carter said. "It's a little trickier to know, to say - I'm just being honest with you - what leverage the US or any of the other many participants in this might have had over that situation given the intransigence of Al Assad, the support [of] Russia for Al Assad and the crazy-quilt nature of the insurgency against him," he said, speaking about Syrian President Bashar Al Assad.

As to whether the continued presence of US troops in Iraq could have prevented the rise of Daesh or if American intelligence could have spotted the group's rise sooner, Carter in his PBS interview backed the Obama administration's standard talking points: "I think it's undoubtedly true that Isis [Daesh] surprised everyone with the rapidity with which they were made to cause the collapse of the Iraqi security forces to the west of Iraq." Despite his careful phrasing and parsing of words on a range of topics, the one subject that anti-war and liberal lawmakers are likely to question Carter about are his blunt views on North Korea.

In a 2006 op-ed in the Washington Post, titled "If Necessary, Strike and Destroy," Carter and former Secretary of Defence William Perry wrote, "if North Korea persists in its launch preparations, the United States should immediately make clear its intention to strike and destroy the North Korean Taepodong missile before it can be launched."

Back then North Korea was threatening to break out of a moratorium on launches of long-range ballistic missiles that the reclusive nation had observed since 1999. Pyongyang had boasted that it had obtained six to eight bombs' worth of

plutonium between 2003 and 2006, and six-party talks aimed at curbing the country's nuclear ambitions had failed.

Still, the call by two Democrats for a preventive strike against North Korea was shocking, "especially after so many critics of the Iraq war had stripped the bark off Bush 43 for engaging in what now can only be considered a preventive war," as Tom Nichols, a professor of National Security Affairs at the US Naval War College, wrote on his blog, referring to Bush's decision to invade Iraq in 2003 in search of weapons of mass destruction that were never found.

But, Nichols added, Carter's position may have been "part of trend of general exhaustion with rogue regimes and a complete evaporation of any tolerance for risk from crazies with nuclear programmes" in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

Carter's tough language on North Korea also may have been prompted by his dealings with the regime when he served in the Clinton administration as a nuclear non-proliferation specialist at the Pentagon, Nichols wrote.

In a 1994 interview with PBS, Carter recounted the experience he and Perry had in dealing with North Korea. "Remember, the North Koreans have a very heated rhetoric, and a very heated way of talking to foreigners, including Americans," Carter told PBS. "They talk about how they're going to turn Seoul into a sea of fire. They're going to turn Tokyo into a sea of fire. They'll ask you, 'Where are you from?' And when you tell them where you're from, they'll say, 'Well, we're going to turn that into a sea of fire.'"

Carter went on to say that when Perry told the North Koreans he was from San Francisco, they said, "Well, we can turn San Francisco into a sea of fire."

Many aspects of Carter's background would distinguish him from his predecessors as secretaries of defence. Carter came of age after the Vietnam War, never served in uniform, and has a minor in a field - medieval history - that is probably irrelevant for an official charged with overseeing the world's biggest and most powerful military. But Carter believes a solid grounding in history is essential to effective policymaking.

While political and economic theories try to explain actions and courses pursued by nations and their leaders, history is a better guide, Carter told Rose in his July 2014 interview.

"I enjoyed and still enjoy history because it is the single discipline from the world of learning that most informs action in the world," Carter said. While physics explains how things work, history shows "why things are the way they are."

With a combination of how and why, "you're a little bit on the road to figuring out what to do next and how to make the world a better place," Carter said.

**Gopal Ratnam is a staff writer at Foreign Policy**  
**Source : Washington Post**

## Disregard of international law

AHMER BILAL SOOFI

A VERY large section of teachers at seminaries and religious scholars refuse to see Muslims as anything other than a single organic ummah. For them, the resort to coercive methods against those seen as threatening this organic whole is kosher.

In international terms, this means that they are oblivious to the legal development of the UN Charter and the many treaties that prohibit a subject of a state to unilaterally resort to such methods irrespective of religious motivation.

In justifying the use of any means and methods against a perceived enemy of the ummah, such teachers and scholars disregard the barriers and frontiers of legal frameworks.

This line of thinking has nurtured a mindset that is set to operate independently of the discipline of the state - and, by extension, of the international community whose laws and regimes have been recognised by the state.

This mindset can visualise its own cause, select its own target, and take a decision to deal with the target on its own terms and prepare itself further to use force anywhere, anytime, against anyone. These actions can manifest themselves in terrorist strikes that are in complete violation of the recognised legal principles of protecting civilians and civilian properties. Worse, this mindset is eliciting support through distorted interpretations of religious injunctions.

It is in this context that I maintain that systematic and state-supported awareness of international law could become an effective tool to deradicalise youth that is swayed by the propaganda disseminated by non-

state actors.

It also needs to be explained to many Muslims that the successes and failures of battles at the present time can no longer be gauged through a military perspective. Victories for states are now defined in terms of their ability to negotiate their positions successfully in treaties and international forums to extract maximum benefits in bilateral relations on the table.

They have to participate intelligently in the process of global lawmaking to secure their own interest - with this process of lawmaking continuing on an almost daily basis through hundreds of international law organisations. With these realities, it is necessary that the Muslim mindset move away from seeing the modern version of Salahuddin Ayubi (the state's readiness for battle in general terms, not necessarily against a particular entity) as the only symbol of a state's strength and victory, and instead invest in intellectual pursuits and areas of research as pegs for future victories.

There is a need to explain all these issues to students in madrasahs, to their teachers and to scholars of Islam, so that they begin to appreciate the contribution of global adherence to international law and development. This appreciation will hopefully lead to a realisation that compliance with international law, even by a state's citizens, is beneficial for all.

These scholars can hopefully then link the vision of Islam as a religion of peace with the ultimate direction of international law, which also promotes peace. Barring a handful of scholars such as Dr Muhammad Hamid Ullah, most have not

exhaustively explored the synergy between modern international law and such a vision.

Indeed, one is hard-pressed to find significant literature written in the last 60 years by scholars on Islam in Pakistan, India, Egypt or Saudi Arabia that compares or even analyses international law instruments that are binding on Muslim states including Pakistan, and are unable to assess their implications in a progressive light.

It seems that Muslim scholars have carried out their discourse and debate in the subcontinent without factoring in developments in international law. They have never paid attention to the number of treaties that their respective states have ratified. They have never discussed the text of those treaties in their scholarly work. They have never analysed the benefits or disadvantages of such texts and treaties.

In fact, they would do well to delve into their own history. All schools of thought in Islam accept that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) always honoured the commitments made with other tribes through treaties, regardless of the positive or negative implications of such treaties. Extending the same spirit to the year 2014, one can easily argue that honouring treaties and texts one is bound by, such as the UN Charter, the ILO Conventions, counterterrorism resolutions etc is a continuation of that tradition.

At the same time, we should be clear that a citizen in this day and age can be critical of a treaty entered into by the state although he cannot himself violate it. If a state has entered into a treaty of non-intervention with a

neighbouring state, then its citizen is equally bound by the covenant, irrespective of his commitment to jihad or belief in extremist ideology. In fact, scholars of Islam in the Muslim world need to start viewing international treaties that bind states to peaceful methods as milestones in man's spiritual journey too. In the light of this, as well as the fact that history has shown the extreme utility of putting in place the building blocks of peace, there is no justification for shunning treaties and undoing the progress achieved so far.

Scholars of Islam in the subcontinent need to evolve a fresh approach towards new realities and include developments in international law in their research. Not many realise that the best works and poetry produced by Allama Iqbal in the context of the ummah as a whole, without any treaty boundaries, were written in the years before the signing of the UN Charter in 1945.

The Charter declared unlawful all aggression, declared any acquisition of territorial title through force as illegitimate, and indicated that collective well-being had to be preferred over war. This completely transformed the context in which Iqbal had written some of his best and most popular works. Therefore, even his work should be understood in the context of the shift in goalposts in the international legal order.

**The writer is an advocate of the Supreme Court and was federal law minister in the last caretaker set-up**  
**Source : Dawn**

## Obese lose up to eight years of life



The analysis showed being obese at a young age was more damaging to health and life expectancy.

The team, at McGill University in Canada, said heart problems and type 2 diabetes were major sources of disability and death.

Experts said people were frequently "ignorant" of the consequences of obesity.

The health problems caused by obesity are well known.

The report, in the Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, used a computer model to take those risks and calculate the

impact of weight on life expectancy throughout life.

In comparison with 20 to 39-year-olds with a healthy weight, severely obese men of the same age lost 8.4 years of life and women lost 6.1.

Men also spent 18.8 more years living in poor health while women spent 19.1 in that state.

Moving up an age group to those in the forties and fifties, men lost 3.7 years and women 5.3 years to obesity.

Men and women in their sixties and seventies lost just one year of life to obesity, but still faced seven years in ill

health.

'Clear pattern'

Prof Steven Grover said: "Our computer modelling study shows that obesity is associated with an increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, and diabetes that will, on average, dramatically reduce an individual's life expectancy.

"The pattern is clear. The more an individual weighs and the younger their age, the greater the effect on their health, as they have many years ahead of them during which the increased health risks associated with obesity can negatively impact their lives."

Responding to the findings, Barbara Dinsdale, lifestyle manager for the charity Heart Research UK, said: "How many more wake-up calls do we need?"

"This research study yet again supports the clear message that by becoming obese you not only take years off your life, but also life off your years in terms of experiencing more years in poor health rather than enjoying a happy, active and productive life."

"Whatever size you are, small, manageable but sustainable changes are the way forward for a happier, healthier and longer life, and reduced risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes."

Tam Fry, of the National Obesity Forum, said: "People persist in thinking that fat is just fat and appear ignorant of the many diseases that a high body mass index triggers.

"If they were told that they could lose a leg or go blind from diabetes or develop life-threatening complications from other similar diseases, I am sure they would think hard and twice before piling on the pounds.

Source : BBC



## Activating cannabinoid brain receptors could replace marijuana for anxiety treatment

Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the US, and its prevalence among adolescents and young adults has been increasing in recent years. But in a new study published in the journal Cell Reports, researchers say they may have uncovered a potential way to help some individuals stop using marijuana. In the brain, endocannabinoids usually activate cannabinoid receptors, which are involved in regulating appetite,

pain, memory and mood, among other physiological processes.

However, past studies have indicated that individuals with mood and anxiety disorders have reduced levels of endocannabinoids. Since the active ingredient in marijuana - tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - can also activate the cannabinoid receptors, many people may use the drug to relieve symptoms of such disorders.

But the research team - led by Dr. Sachin Patel, professor of psychiatry and molecular physiology and biophysics at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN - says they have found a way to replenish levels of an endocannabinoid called 2-Arachidonoylglycerol (2-AG) in the brain, which may reduce the reliance on marijuana to treat mood and anxiety disorders.

Source : MNT

## Flu shot less effective this year because current virus has mutated



Scientists are concerned about what they're seeing so far this flu season, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday, a day after the agency advised doctors this year's flu vaccine is not as effective because the current strain of the virus has mutated.

Dr. Tom Frieden said researchers are worried that with this particular strain of the virus, "we could have a season that is more severe than most with more hospitalizations and more deaths."

The advisory sent Wednesday said 52% of the 85 influenza virus samples collected and analyzed from October 1 through November 22 were different than the virus strains included in this year's vaccine, indicating a mutation, or drift, of the strain.

The most common strain of the virus reported so far this season is influenza A (H3N2). In the past, this strain has been linked to higher rates of hospitalization and death,

especially for those at high risk for complications, which is usually the very young, the elderly and those with chronic health conditions such as asthma or heart problems. In February, a panel of experts decided on 3 strains of the virus to include in this year's vaccine, based on data about the common strains circulating around the globe throughout the year. Some years the vaccine is a better match to the circulating strains than others.

It's too late to create another version of the flu vaccine this year, Frieden said, because even with modern production technology, it typically takes about four months to produce the vaccine.

While this year's version is not as protective against a mutated strain, it can still decrease the severity of illness caused by the virus. It can also protect against other circulating strains of the virus, which is why the CDC still recommends getting the vaccine.

"The flu is bad, and you want to do anything you can

to prevent getting it and to prevent giving it to other people," said Dr. Lisa Thebner, a pediatrician in New York City. "The vaccine isn't perfect, but it's the best protection we have for prevention."

When asked if people should be concerned, Thebner said "people should always be concerned about the flu."

In a news conference Thursday, Frieden emphasized that if you do start to see flu symptoms -- fever, sore throat, cough, body aches -- it's extremely important to begin taking antiviral medications as soon as possible. Tamiflu and Relenza have been considered most effective at reducing complications when given soon after symptoms begin.

However, he said, most doctors still do not treat people with the antiviral medications, noting that fewer than 1 in 6 people who are severely ill with flu get them. "It is very important that we do better," Frieden said.

Source : CNN

## Superbugs' kill india's babies and pose an Overseas threat



AMRAVATI, India - A deadly epidemic that could have global implications is quietly sweeping India, and among its many victims are tens of thousands of newborns dying because once-miraculous cures no longer work.

These infants are born with bacterial infections that are resistant to most known antibiotics, and more than 58,000 died last year as a result, a recent study found. While that is still a fraction of the nearly 800,000 newborns who die annually in India, Indian pediatricians say that the rising toll of resistant infections could soon swamp efforts to improve India's abysmal infant death rate. Nearly a third of the world's newborn deaths occur in India.

"Reducing newborn deaths in India is one of the most important public health priorities in the world, and this will require treating an increasing number of neonates who have sepsis and pneumonia," said Dr. Vinod Paul, chief of pediatrics at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the leader of the study. "But if resistant infections keep growing, that progress could slow, stop or even reverse itself. And that would be a disaster for not only India but the entire world.

Source : Newyork Times



## At least 24 patients go blind after cataract surgery in India

Authorities ordered an investigation Friday after at least 24 poor and elderly people went blind following cataract surgeries performed at a free medical camp run by a charity in northern India.

The operations were performed in early November on 130 patients who were all older than 50 and living in either Amritsar or nearby Gurdaspur, in Punjab state, said Abhinav Trikha, a top official in Gurdaspur. Some of the patients

reported this week that they'd lost their eyesight or were suffering infections, Bhagat said.

Doctors in Amritsar are treating some of the patients. Police have launched an investigation, and detained at least one doctor in Gurdaspur.

Every year, thousands of people, especially in rural areas without proper health facilities, undergo cataract operations in medical camps held by health authorities and welfare groups. The case once again

highlighted the perilous state of health care in India, where hundreds of millions of poor people without access to doctors or health insurance are forced to seek treatment at medical camps because of poor services and corruption at government hospitals.

Last month, 13 women died after allegedly taking tainted drugs after undergoing simple sterilization surgeries in the central state of Chhattisgarh.

Source : Fox News



PTI chairman Imran Khan while talking to the media outside the tribunal.

Dawn News

## China arrests former security chief Zhou Yongkang

**BELJING:** Chinese authorities arrested the once-feared ex-security chief Zhou Yongkang and launched a criminal investigation Saturday on charges ranging from adultery and bribery to leaking state secrets, after expelling him from the Communist Party overnight.

The developments, announced shortly after midnight, pave the way for a trial of the most senior figure so far to be ensnared in President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption crackdown and appear to seal the downfall of a formerly powerful politician once considered a potent rival for Xi.

The square-jawed, granite-faced Zhou, 72, is the highest-level official to be prosecuted since the 1981 treason trial of Mao Zedong's wife and other members of the "Gang of Four" who persecuted political opponents during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

## Imran testifies before Lahore election tribunal

**LAHORE:** Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan arrived at an election tribunal in Lahore on Saturday to submit an evidence report to judge Kazim Ali Malik pertaining to alleged rigging in the May 2013 elections, reports Dawn News.

Speaking to media representatives outside the tribunal, Khan stated that evidence had been recorded in front of the judge, adding that he will decide on Monday whether the ballot bags will be opened or not.

The evidence was submitted against National Assembly speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq who had defeated Imran Khan in the NA-122 constituency during the election.

"We have provided all our evidence, and we have put our stance in front of them that all the evidence is in the bags. Once they are inspected, everyone will know what happened in the elections," said the PTI chairman.

Khan also said that if he was in Ayaz Sadiq's position, he would not be worried if he was asked to get his ballot bags recounted. He said he would have allowed it and no one would have had to wait this long.

"I have won three seats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; I wrote a letter to Speaker Ayaz Sadiq that if you want to open the ballot bags in the constituencies where I have one, you can."

An election tribunal had earlier directed

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chief Imran Khan to testify in support of his allegations of rigging in NA-122 by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supporters chanted anti-Imran slogans and momentarily blocked the route for Khan's car. PTI supporters present at the site in return chanted anti-Nawaz slogans.

Earlier, six witnesses presented by the petitioner side, were cross-examined by Mr Sadiq's counsel. The witnesses were polling agents of the PTI who, in their written statements, alleged that they were forcefully expelled from the polling booths by the presiding officers. They alleged that the presiding officers spoiled the ballot-papers by stamping on tiger, election symbol of ruling PML-N. The witnesses said they protested the 'unfairness' but to no avail.

Mr Sadiq's counsel Barrister Asjad Saeed pointed out that an FIR was already lodged against the 'fake' oath commissioner who attested the affidavits of Mr Khan's witnesses. He said the affidavits should not be made part of the case record.

Advocate Anees Hashmi, the counsel for Imran Khan, said to check validity of an oath commissioner was not the job of applicants. He said the authorities concerned should take action against the 'fake' oath commissioners working on court premises.

### Historical Day

## Pearl Harbor bombed

At 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a Japanese dive bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan on its wings appears out of the clouds above the island of Oahu. A swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes followed, descending on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in a ferocious assault. The surprise attack struck a critical blow against the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the United States irrevocably into World War II.

The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, President Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress and declared, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941--a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." After a brief and forceful speech, he asked Congress to approve a resolution recognizing the state of war between the United States and Japan. The Senate voted for war against Japan by 82 to 0, and the House of Representatives approved the resolution by a vote of 388 to 1.

With diplomatic negotiations with Japan breaking down, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his advisers knew that an imminent Japanese attack was probable, but nothing had been done to increase security at the important naval base at Pearl Harbor. It was Sunday morning, and many military personnel had been given passes to attend religious services off base. At 7:02 a.m., two radar operators spotted large groups of aircraft in flight toward the island from the north, but, with a flight of B-17s expected from the United States at the time, they were told to sound no alarm. Thus, the Japanese air assault came as a devastating surprise to the naval base.

## 600,000 Filipinos flee as typhoon blows near

**PHILIPPINES:** Haunted by Typhoon Haiyan's massive devastation last year, more than 600,000 people fled Philippine villages and the military went on full alert Saturday to brace for a powerful storm that was only hours away from the country's eastern coast, reports AP.

Typhoon Hagupit - Filipino for "smash" or "lash" - was expected to slam into the central Philippines late Saturday and hammer parts of a region where Haiyan's tsunami-like storm surges and ferocious winds left more than 7,300 people dead or missing in November 2013. Hagupit weakened slightly on Saturday, but remained dangerously powerful and erratic. "We're on red alert, so the entire armed

forces is being mobilized for this typhoon," Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang, head of the Philippines' 120,000-strong military, told a news conference after discussing last-minute preparations.

Army troops deployed to supermarkets and major roads in provinces in the typhoon's path to prevent looting and chaos and clear debris, all of which slowed the government's response last year, Catapang said. Although it's unlikely to reach Haiyan's unprecedented strength, forecasters said Hagupit's maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometers (109 miles) per hour and gusts of 210 kph (130 mph) were strong enough to set off deadly storm surges and landslides and cause heavy damage to communi-

ties and agriculture.

With a whirling band of rain clouds spanning 600 kilometers (373 miles), Hagupit has gained speed and was moving westward at 16 kph (10 mph), according to forecasters.

In the central city of Tacloban, where Haiyan's storm surges killed thousands of people and leveled villages, news of the approaching typhoon rekindled painful memories. Many residents fled to storm shelters, a sports stadium and churches even before authorities urged them to evacuate.

"I'm scared," said Haiyan survivor Jojo Moro. "I'm praying to God not to let another disaster strike us again. We haven't recovered from the first."



Hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes and many were stranded after flights were cancelled. BBC

## Maldives seeks calm as capital battles water crisis

**MALE, Maldives:** Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen urged patience Saturday as discontent over a drinking water crisis simmered in parts of the island nation following a fire that crippled a major desalination plant, reports AP.

Much of the capital Male was still without drinking water on Saturday after a fire Thursday knocked out the desalination plant that supplies fresh to the densely populated capital.

"President Abdulla Yameen has appealed to the Maldivian public to remain patient and united, while working with the government to resolve the national crisis," the president's office said in a statement, which quoted Yameen saying that he will assure a "steady and adequate supply" of water until the crisis is resolved.

India and Sri Lanka began airlifting bottled water to the capital of the up-market honeymoon destination, Friday as taps ran dry. China and the United States were also rushing help, the government said.

India had also sent ships with desalination capabilities to boost supplies. Street scuffles broke out Friday in Male at many places where authorities were distributing bottled water under a strict ration system.

The government said Saturday that it would distribute water free of charge to some 120,000 residents, including thousands of expatriate workers from

Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, following reports that the foreign



**India sent 200 tonnes of drinking water through five IAF heavy-lift aircraft and also pressed into service naval warships to supply potable water to Male.**

**PTI** labourers were being denied water at some distribution centres.

Former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom also urged Maldivians to remain calm. "Govt working hard to solve Male water crisis asap. Let us keep calm till it is solved!" tweeted Gayoom, who is the half brother of current president Yameen.

Officials have said that it could take up to five days to repair the fire damage at the desalination plant and restore normal water supply.

More than a third of the local population of 330,000 Sunni Muslims live in Male, which covers an area of just one square mile (two square kilometres), putting huge pressure on resources such as drinking water and electricity.

## Rahul Gandhi blames Modi for terrorist activities in Kashmir

**KANKE, RANCHI DISTRICT:** Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for rising terrorist activities in Kashmir, where militants from Pakistan launched four terror attacks on Friday leaving 11 security personnel including a lt colonel dead and killing two civilians, reports PTI.

"He (Narendra Modi) had said he will deal with China and Pakistan when he would become Prime Minister. During UPA rule, tourists used to come to Kashmir. There was peace in Jammu & Kashmir. Soon after Modi government came, terrorist activities started. Now terrorists not tourists are coming to Kashmir," Rahul Gandhi said at an election rally in Kanke assembly segment on Saturday afternoon.



Rahul Gandhi blames Modi for terrorist activities in Kashmir. The times of India

He further attacked Modi, "Before elections, wherever he goes, communal riots take place. Be it in Maharashtra, Delhi or Uttar

Pradesh communal riots definitely take place. They put people of one community against the people of another community. The election

takes place after the communal riots."

The Gandhi scion said BJP is not concerned about people empowerment. "They want to snatch away the power from you. They are trying to dilute Land Acquisition Bill, MNREGA scheme and other laws which we brought," he said.

He compared the BJP's policies with Congress's and said Congress wants to empower people while BJP wants to empower only PM Narendra Modi. "Modi wants all power in his hands and says he will change everything. Do you remember his promise of acche din?" he asked a humble gathering.

Rahul Gandhi addressing an election rally ahead of third phase of Jharkhand assembly elections at Kanke in Ranchi.

### Spot Light News

### Modi says wants politics of development

**HAZARIBAGH:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that Jharkhand has enormous potential to become the number one state in the country and batted for politics of development instead of politics of caste to take the state forward. "The need of the hour is to leave politics of caste, politics of backward-forward and politics of we and you, and do only politics of development ...To put India, Jharkhand and Hazaribagh on the path of development," he said at an election meeting for the third phase of polling scheduled on December 9.

### Some Sri Lankan want Pope's visit postponed

**COLOMBO:** Some Roman Catholic priests and lay people in Sri Lanka are seeking the postponement of Pope Francis' visit to the island nation in January, citing its closeness to a presidential election and possible violence linked to the polls. Catholic leader the Rev. Leo Perera wrote to the country's bishops saying that in the past, days after elections have been marked by violence and Francis' presence in a period of turmoil could "sully the image of the papacy."

### Police say Taliban attack kills 3 in Afghanistan

**AFGHANISTAN:** A Taliban attack on a convoy in northern Afghanistan killed three police officers, authorities said Saturday, as suspected U.S. drone strikes killed four Taliban militants.

Police spokesman Abdul Manan Rauofi said the convoy attack happened Friday night in Jawzjan province. Rauofi said Taliban militants killed the officers and wounded four in the assault on the patrol in the province's Aqcha District.

### 4 new polio cases detected in Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD:** A health official in Pakistan says four new polio cases have been detected in the country, bringing the number of children affected by the crippling disease this year to 276.

Rana Mohammad Safdar, a senior official at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad, said Saturday the new cases were registered this week. He said most of the cases came from the northwest, where local militants often target polio teams.

### Saradha case: Another Trinamool MP under CBI lens

**KOLKATA:** Another Trinamool Congress MP has been brought under the investigation ambit by the CBI. The sleuths, prima facie, have found that the MP was a top boss in a UAE-based company. This company, which was allegedly used to launder Saradha money, is also facing a probe. The MP had earlier denied any link with the UAE-based firm claiming his role was only honorary in nature and he had quit the post before entering politics.

### Youths in Sanghar vulnerable to anti-state propaganda, SC told

**ISLAMABAD:** A lawyer known for struggling for the rights of local communities alarmed the Supreme Court on Thursday with his statement about mounting unrest among frustrated youths of Sindh's Sanghar district who, according to him, were vulnerable to anti-state propaganda and agent provocateurs. The district of Sanghar, along the border with India, has large-scale presence of petroleum exploration and production (E&P) companies engaged in oil and gas exploration. But, according to Anwar Mehmood Nizamani, a former president of the Sanghar Bar Association, jobs created by the industry there go largely to outsiders, thereby frustrating local youths and leaving them vulnerable to anti-Pakistan propaganda.

## UK to establish £15m permanent Mid East military base

UK : Britain is to establish its first permanent military base in the Middle East since it formally withdrew from the region in 1971, reports BBC.

The base, at the Mina Salman Port in Bahrain, will host ships including destroyers and aircraft carriers.

The UK said it was an "expansion of the Royal Navy's footprint" and would "reinforce stability" in the Gulf.

Bahrain will pay most of the £15m (\$23m) needed to build the base, with the British paying ongoing costs.

UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, who signed the deal at a security conference in Manama, Bahrain, said it was "just one example of our growing partnership with Gulf partners to tackle shared strategic and regional threats".

He said the move "builds upon our 30-year track record of Gulf patrols".

BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner said there was already a "rotating presence" of four British minesweepers at the Mina Salman Port, but the UK had been "piggybacking" on the US naval base there.



Philip Hammond said the new base would accommodate ships including Type 45 destroyers. BBC

He said the new facility would be one of the most important Royal Navy bases in the world and would be used for a "whole host of things" including supporting UK operations in Iraq, where RAF jets have been attacking targets as part of a US-led coalition against Islamic State (IS) militants.

The base would also be used for operations against piracy and for aerial surveillance, he added.

"The deal will have its detractors. Bahrain has been heavily criticised for its human rights record in the past and despite some reforms, power remains concentrated in the hands of the ruling family," our correspondent said.

"The majority Shia population here complain of discrimination by their Sunni rulers. There will also be some who resent the prospect of western military

forces being permanently based here."

He also said the threat of IS may have made Gulf monarchies "content to invite British forces to set up on their soil".

UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon added: "This new base is a permanent expansion of the Royal Navy's footprint and will enable Britain to send more and larger ships to reinforce stability in the Gulf."

### Historical Day

#### Gorbachev arrives in US for summit with Reagan

Despite protests in Washington concerning Soviet human rights abuses, most Americans get swept up in "Gorbymania" as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrives for his summit with President Ronald Reagan. Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, charmed the American public and media by praising the United States and calling for closer relations between the Soviet Union and America.

Aside from the excitement surrounding Gorbachev (whose face was soon plastered on T-shirts, cups, and posters), the summit with Reagan resulted in one of the most significant arms control agreements of the Cold War. Reagan and Gorbachev signed off on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force (INF) Treaty, which called for the elimination of all ground cruise and ballistic missiles and launchers in Europe with ranges of 320 to 3,400 miles.

#### Islamic State group support grows in Jordan town

MAAN : Local authorities quickly stripped away public signs of support for the Islamic State group in this desert town, reports UNB.

Black flags have been removed from rooftops. Graffiti proclaiming the extremists' imminent victory have been whitewashed. But supporters of the Middle East's most radical extremist group are only laying low after their surprise show of strength in protests last summer.

Despite government efforts, support for the Islamic State group is growing in Maan and elsewhere in Jordan, one of the West's key allies in the region, say Islamic State activists, members of rival groups and experts on political Islam. One of the leading Islamic State group activists in Maan said he and others are still working to build their base.

#### Sister says American hostage killed in Yemen

YEMEN : An American photojournalist held by al-Qaida militants in Yemen has been killed in a failed rescue attempt, his sister said Saturday, reports AP.

Lucy Somers told The Associated Press that she learned of her 33-year-old brother Luke Somers' death from FBI agents. There was no immediate comment from Washington, nor from security officials in Yemen's capital, Sanaa.

"We ask that all of Luke's family members be allowed to mourn in peace," Lucy Somers said. Yemen's local al-Qaida branch, Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, posted a video Thursday that showed Somers, threatening to kill him in three days if the United States didn't meet the group's demands, which weren't specified. He was kidnapped in September 2013 from Sanaa.

## Haiti city hit by anti-govt clashes

HAITI : Thousands of anti-government protesters have clashed with police in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince, reports BBC.

They burned tyres and threw stones at officers who responded with tear gas.

The protesters want President Michel Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe to resign and long-overdue elections to be held.

Some protesters accused the US of supporting Haiti's leadership and called on Russian President Vladimir Putin for help.

Hundreds succeeded in reaching the National Palace, an area which has been restricted for several years.

One protester, who gave his name as

Reginald, said: "Today is a victory against President Martelly who destroys the country, for two years we (are not allowed) to cross in front of the National Palace."

President Martelly was supposed to call elections in 2011 but they have been postponed in a stalemate between the government and a group of opposition senators over electoral law.

Haiti is also still struggling to recover from a 2010 earthquake.

Opposition politicians accuse President Martelly of wanting to rule by decree.

The government argues that opposition politicians are also dragging their feet in the hope of extending their time in office without elections.



An image of Haiti's Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe was placed against burning tyres in Port-au-Prince. BBC

#### Somali premier loses confidence vote in parliament

MOGADISHU: Somalia's prime minister, who has been at odds with the president for months, on Saturday lost a vote of confidence in parliament, amid warnings that the power struggles and political turmoil could damage efforts to rebuild the war-torn nation.

Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed received support from only 80 lawmakers, while 153 backed a motion to oust him.

Ahmed has for months been at loggerheads with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, prompting international backers to warn that the infighting was putting at risk the fragile gains made in the war-scarred nation and with the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Shehab rebels still carrying out regular attacks.

Ahmed took the post in December 2013 after his predecessor Abdi Farah Shirdon was ousted by parliament after just over a year in office.

The United Nations, United States and European Union have all warned the power struggles are putting at risk the progress Somalia has made. Political wrangling and reports of corruption have raised concern the govt, like the last administration, is blighted by infighting and failing to unite in the face of the threat by the Shehab.

Somalia this week was again ranked worst in the world for graft, according to the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index.

## McCain blocks Obama's pick as No. 2 diplomat over Iraq policy



US Senator John McCain said on Thursday he is blocking President Barack Obama's nomination of Antony Blinken. Yahoo

U.S. Senator John McCain said on Thursday he is blocking President Barack Obama's nomination of Antony Blinken as the country's number two diplomat, citing sharp disagreement with the nominee's past statements on Iraq, reports YAHOO.

"He's totally unqualified," the Republican senator told Reuters, when asked why he was holding up Blinken's nomination to be deputy Secretary of State.

"He's the guy who said we're leaving behind the richest, safest Iraq in history. Look it up," McCain said, referring to Blinken's reassuring comments two

years ago about the decision to withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq.

McCain, a frequent critic of Obama's foreign policy, has repeatedly voiced strong opposition to the decision to end the campaign in Iraq, where U.S. forces are currently battling the militant fighters of the Islamic State.

The White House responded by citing Blinken's decades of foreign policy experience, including stints at the State Department and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"This is somebody who ... knows the world, who's got ample experience repre-

senting the United States of America and has done so with distinction," spokesman Josh Earnest said.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee was to have voted on Blinken's nomination on Thursday, amid heated debate in Congress over the campaign against the Sunni Muslim group in Iraq and Syria.

McCain's action puts off that vote until next week, at the soonest. If the committee approves Blinken, as is expected if the vote is able to go ahead, the full Senate must still vote to confirm him before he can take office as Secretary of State John Kerry's understudy.

### Spot Light News

#### Islamic State group storms air base in east Syria

BEIRUT : Activists say Islamic State group fighters have stormed parts of a sprawling army air base in eastern Syria after days of clashes that killed dozens. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the latest attack began Saturday with a suicide car bomb attack on the main entrance of the Deir el-Zour air base.

#### 2 bombings kill 7 people in Iraq

BAGHDAD : Authorities in Iraq say two bombings targeting Shiites have killed seven people around the capital, Baghdad, reports UNB. Police officials say the first attack took place Saturday morning when a bomb exploded near a market in the Shiite section of the town of Mahmoudiya.

#### Britain to boost military presence in Persian Gulf

MANAMA : Britain's top diplomat says his nation has signed a deal with the Gulf Arab nation of Bahrain to bolster the United Kingdom's military presence in the region. Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond announced the deal Saturday at a security conference in the Bahraini capital.

#### Egypt investigates 'fake tape of Morsi detention plan'

EGYPT : Egypt's prosecutor general's office is investigating what it describes as a "fabricated" recording of top officials discussing the detention of ousted Islamist President Morsi. The audio recording is alleged to be of security officials debating illegal means to prevent the possible collapse of the case against Morsi.

#### Biden to visit Brazil for Rousseff inauguration

WASHINGTON : Vice President Joe Biden will lead a US delegation to Brazil for the inauguration of President Dilma Rousseff on January 1, the White House said Friday. Rousseff, who was re-elected for a second term in October, met Biden earlier this year when he visited for the World Cup.

#### Artificial intelligence says Hawking's fears stir debate

PARIS : There was the psychotic HAL 9000 computer in "2001: A Space Odyssey". The humanoids which attacked their flesh-and-blood masters in "I, Robot". And, of course, "The Terminator", where a robot is sent into the past to kill a woman whose son will end the tyranny of the machines in the future.

# Audio album of Zero Degree launched



**Entertainment Desk**

"Zero Degree", a thriller movie directed by Animesh Aich, launched its audio album at a hotel in the capital on December 4.

Talking about the film, producer Mahfuz Ahmed said: "It is in no way a television drama, it's a full packed thriller movie."

On the other hand, Jaya Ahsan said: "This film is unlike others. It is truly a story out of the ordinary. And I am glad that I tried something new."

Music composer Prince Mahmud, singers Samina Chowdhury and Nancy, among others, were present on the occasion.

Rock star James gave his voice in the title number "prem o ghrina" has been written, composed and tuned by Prince Mahamud. Two of the other songs were written by Animesh Aich, these were his first attempt on writing songs for the silver screen.

The singers of the album includes Nancy, Samina, Audit, Probor Ripon, Prithwi Raj and Swandhi. And the music has been directed by Emon Shaha.

# Anushka Sharma to play the female lead in Ae Dil Hai Mushkil

**Entertainment Desk**

Karan Johar's latest project, Ae Dil Hai Mushkil starring Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Anushka Sharma and Ranbir Kapoor has become the talk of the town.

In fact Anushka Sharma set tongues wagging when she told an online portal in an interview that she will play the female lead in the movie. The actress said, "We start shooting for Ae Dil Hai Mushkil from July next year. The film is not a triangular love story and I play the female lead in the film. I am very excited to start shooting for the film."

Ae Dil Hai Mushkil is set to release on 3 June 2016. The film will be a love story and is expected to be shot in New York, Paris and parts of New Delhi.



# Asha Bhosle to receive Lifetime Achievement Award at DIFF

**Entertainment Desk**

Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her decades of dedication to Indian cinema at the forthcoming Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF).

The octogenarian singer is known for her incredible range and versatility, having recorded every style of music from film to folk songs, Indian classical music to pop songs, as well as ghazals and bhajans. The veteran singer is glad about the honour.

"I am delighted to have been nominated to receive this Lifetime Achievement Award from DIFF in Dubai - a place with long historic ties to my country. I look forward to visiting this special film festival, which has done so much work to promote the art worldwide," she said in a statement released on the official site of the film festival.

DIFF Chairman Abdulhamid Juma also had good words to share about Asha.

"Asha Bhosle is a stalwart of the Indian music scene, and we are proud to be honouring her with this DIFF Lifetime Achievement Award. Her work has touched almost every corner of the world: we look forward to welcoming such a legend to Dubai and DIFF," said Juma. The Lifetime Achievement Award is dedicated to honouring the world's greatest film actors, writers, directors and producers. Previous winners include Martin Sheen, Omar Sharif, Faten Hamamah, Adel Imam, Jameel Rateb, Sabah, Morgan Freeman, Sean Penn, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Daoud Abdel Sayed, Youssef Chahine, Rachid Bouchareb, Souleymane Cisse, Nabil El-Maleh, Oliver Stone, Danny Glover, Terry Gilliam, Yash Chopra, Subhash Ghai, Michael Apted and Mahmoud Abdel Aziz.



# Marilyn Monroe tops calendar icon list

**Entertainment Desk**

Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe has topped the calendar icon race along with singer Kylie Minogue.

Glenn McWhinney of Calendar UK said that Monroe was one of the world's original pin-ups and Minogue had been favourite for over 30 years.

"Marilyn Monroe is one of the world's original pin-ups. And Kylie has been a favourite for over 30 years. I guess you could say that class really does retain its appeal. Perhaps we will see Michelle Keegan still going strong in 2024!," McWhinney said. The late beauty and Minogue, 46, have beaten younger celebrities like former 23-year-old Towie lingerie model Sam Faiers and 27-year-old 'Apprentice' actress as the most popular pin-up icons.

# Megan Fox's car hit by drunk driver

**Entertainment Desk**

Transformers actress Megan Fox and husband actor Brian Austin Green were sideswiped near Mulholland Drive allegedly by a drunk driver on Thursday night.

The star couple escaped unhurt in the accident though their vehicle was damaged badly. Brain, 41, was driving a Range Rover when a Mini Cooper going in the opposite direction crossed over the yellow line and violently sideswiped them, enough to blow a tire, reported TMZ.

The Mini Cooper spun around and eventually stopped. Police have arrested the Mini Cooper's driver. The 35-year-old man was reportedly driving at twice the legal limit.



## Horoscope

**Aries (March 21 - April 19)**

Today, more than ever, you will yearn to escape the daily routine, Aries. You thirst for new sights and sounds, new faces and new places, but you know you must juggle your desires with professional and domestic obligations. It isn't always easy. Trust your imagination to find a way to settle this conflict.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)**

You're finally on the mend, Taurus. The minor ailments that may have dragged you down lately are beginning to disappear. You're about to regain all of your physical energy. If you overindulge, your energy level is likely to plummet once again. If nothing else, you will have learned a valuable lesson about the importance of moderation, especially now. Don't overdo it!

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20)**

Do you feel a little under the weather today, Gemini? It's quite possible, considering all the emotional turmoil you've been through lately. It takes time to recover from such storms. As you know, the work itself isn't what gets you down. It's worry about the future that drains your energy. Give yourself a break today. Take some time for rest and recuperation.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22)**

There is some likelihood that the mood at home is fraught with tension. Did you have some intellectual disagreement? In any case, it looks as though your self-confidence is stronger than ever right now. Go ahead and express any complaints or opinions you may have been keeping to yourself, Cancer. But try and do it gently, especially where family is concerned.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22)**

It seems that your sensitivity is in slight conflict with your actions, Leo. You continue to go through the daily motions and do what you planned on doing, but it seems as though your heart is no longer in it. Don't ask why. It's just that you've been working hard and thinking hard lately. You've reached your limit and it's time to rest.

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22)**

You may have been spending or saving too much money, Virgo. It's clear that a rebalancing is in order if you're to find pleasure rather than frustration. It's a curious phenomenon, as though you've lost contact with your body. Yet it's in your body where you will ultimately find your balance. You certainly won't find it in your head!

**Libra (September 23 - October 22)**

Perhaps you've been impatiently waiting for the moment to jump into new adventures after your meditation during the last few months. Know that the moment has almost arrived! You now have the strategy, objective, and means at your disposal to succeed. Just a bit more work remains to be done. Gather your strength and get ready to take action with renewed vigor.

**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)**

If you find yourself tired and irritable at the moment, Scorpio, you should know that this is normal. You may have had a few weeks that were a little too studious. Would you like to continue on the same path? Be careful that your ambitions don't lead you to serious physical exhaustion, Scorpio. You'll be even more frustrated if you get sick. So be wise and take care of your basic needs.

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)**

This is going to be a good moment to look elsewhere, Sagittarius. You should do just as the artist does when he has worked too long on a painting, which is to take a step back. You need to see people, travel, go to the theater, and clear your head. This is never easy for you, but do it anyway. Afterwards you'll think it was the best thing for you.

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)**

This is the right moment to extricate yourself from relationships that have seen their day, Capricorn. This won't be easy, but you must. In your professional and private lives, you're too hesitant to get out of distasteful situations or obligations. You're afraid of hurting people or making them mad. But in the end, you're hurting yourself. Give more weight to your own needs and follow your own path.

**Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)**

You took off like a bullet a few days ago, making great progress in a short amount of time. Now you're grappling with doubts that are undermining all of your energy. Reflecting on the events of the past few days, it's obvious that you were somewhat reckless in your headlong pursuit of your goals. Don't give up, Aquarius. Rethink your strategy.

**Pisces (February 19 - March 20)**

There is some likelihood that you will be haunted by thoughts of your love life today, Pisces. Perhaps you're intrigued by the idea of exploring certain secret realms of your relationship, yet you aren't sure how to communicate this to your mate. Perhaps you're still testing the waters, waiting until you know how you feel. In any case, you might make a decision to proceed today.



Ajmal, suspended in September included in Pakistan's preliminary World Cup squad

## Suspended Ajmal in Pakistan's preliminary World Cup squad

### Sports Desk

Ace spinner Saeed Ajmal is in Pakistan's 30-man preliminary squad for next year's World Cup, despite serving a suspension at the moment for an illegal bowling action.

The 37-year-old off-spinner is undergoing remedial work on his bowling action which was deemed illegal in September this year.

His action was reported as suspect during the Galle Test against Sri Lanka in August.

Ranked as number one bowler in the world in one-day cricket in August, Ajmal's suspension was a huge blow to Pakistan's hopes of lifting the World Cup, being co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand and being held in February and March.

However, chief selector Moin Khan hoped Ajmal will be cleared.

"We have included Ajmal in a hope that he will be cleared," Khan told AFP.

"We have been monitoring him during his remedial work."

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) earlier this week requested the International Cricket Council (ICC) to have Ajmal's action reassessed but seemed to have backed out of the plan after unofficial tests on the off-spinner showed little improvement.

Under the ICC rules a bowler is allowed to flex his elbow by 15 degrees but Ajmal's action showed his goes to 43 degrees. Misbah-ul-Haq has already been named as captain of the squad, which has to be trimmed to 15 by the stipulated January 7 deadline.

The 30-man squad also includes another players whose bowling action has been referred for assessment, all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez.

A report on his bio-mechanical analysis is likely to come next week and if Hafeez is also suspended Pakistan's bowling attack will be weakened further.

Misbah-ul Haq admitted Ajmal's suspension was a huge blow.

"Ajmal has been our trump card for the last five six years and his suspension is a big jolt for us," said Misbah on Saturday.

"I am praying that he is cleared before the World Cup."

The ICC World Cup commences in Australia and New Zealand on February 14, with Pakistan facing arch-rival India in their first Group B game a day later at Adelaide. Khan said Pakistan's final squad will take shape after the five-match one-day series against New Zealand starting in Dubai on Monday.

"In our assessment, by the time the five 50-over games against the Black Caps and the short away series in New Zealand as well as the practice games are over in the next two months Pakistan will be close to hitting its peak," said Khan, a member of Pakistan's only World Cup winning team in 1992 in Australia.

## Rafael Nadal to comeback stronger than before, says Carlos Moya

### Sports Desk

Rafael Nadal has managed to win a remarkable 14 Grand Slam titles despite an injury-stricken career and he is only going to come back stronger from his latest setback, feels fellow countryman and former world number one Carlos Moya.

Nadal is back to practice following his injury to remove appendix and a stem cell treatment for his ailing back.

"He (Nadal) is starting to practice now. I have been in constant touch with him. He has been very unlucky with the injuries. Having said that, every time he has had an injury he has come back stronger than before. There is no reason to think it is going to be any different," Moya, who is here for the International Premier Tennis League (IPTL), told PTL.

Rafael Nadal is only going to come back stronger from his latest setback, feels fellow countryman and former world number one Carlos Moya. (Getty Images)

"For sure, he will be back at the top soon. For the past 10 years he has been winning with all the injuries," he added.

Nadal was unable to defend his US Open crown this season due to a wrist injury before being sidelined for the rest of the season in October.

The 28-year-old, who won the French Open for the record ninth straight time this season, is eyeing a competitive return to the Australian Open.

Nadal was supposed to play the IPTL but his injury made way for another great Roger Federer.

"He was very excited to be part of the IPTL but had to pull out. Now he is looking forward to 2015. The feeling

that I get is that he is very motivated for the next season," Moya, who won the French Open in 1998 before becoming the world number one in 1999, said.

Although Moya has played in India earlier, he is excited

about his role in the IPTL, where he is representing Manila Mavericks as a player-cum-coach. He is also looking forward to meet Federer and Pete Sampras, who are part of the Indian Aces.



Hartlepool manager Paul Murray (c) in charge of his final game, the 2-1 defeat at home to Blyth Spartans in the FA Cup

## Hartlepool United sack manager Paul Murray

### Sports Desk

United are six points adrift of safety at the bottom of Sky Bet League Two and were knocked out of the FA Cup on Friday night after losing 2-1 at home to Vanarama North side Blyth Spartans.

Former Pools midfielder Murray only took over from Colin Cooper as manager in October. But the 38-year-old has struggled to improve the club's fortunes and has lost his job after just 45 days and seven matches in charge at Victoria Park, during which Murray presided over five defeats, one win and a draw during his brief tenure. "Hartlepool United can announce that Manager Paul Murray and Assistant Manager Willie Donachie have been released from their contracts," read a statement on the club's official website. "Sam Collins has been placed in temporary charge of First Team affairs. "The Club will be making no further comment at this time." Sky Bet have installed former Middlesbrough man Craig Hignett as odds-on favourite to replace Murray at Victoria Park.

## Lippi, Popovic handed bans over stormy ACL match

### Sports Desk

Former Guangzhou Evergrande coach Marcello Lippi and Western Sydney Wanderers skipper Tony Popovic were both handed match bans on Saturday stemming from their roles in a stormy August Asian Champions League match.

Lippi, the former coach of Italy's 2006 World Cup-winning side, was given a four-match ban from club competition by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), while Popovic will be barred from the touch line for two games.

# Pakistan, New Zealand build for World Cup

### Sports Desk

Pakistan, New Pakistan and New Zealand start a five-match one-day series in Dubai on Monday with the focus on building confidence and momentum for next year's World Cup, which is just two months away.

It promises to be a keenly-fought contest after they ended honours even in both the three-Test series and the two-match Twenty20.

Pakistan skipper Misbah-ul Haq admitted his team can build confidence and momentum.

"This is one of our last chances before the World Cup, to look how we will go into the World Cup so the focus is on that," said Misbah on Saturday.

"Pitches are different here (from Australia and New Zealand where the World Cup is being hosted) but I still think the confidence and the momentum of this series will help us and it will not matter even if we are playing on different pitches here."

Pakistan have recalled experienced batsman Younis Khan after dropping him from the three-match one-day series against Australia which they lost 3-0 in October -- also played in the United Arab Emirates. Misbah believes Younis will provide valuable experience.

"His experience will help us," said Misbah, also hinting Pakistan will go with a specialist opening pair instead of using wicket-

keeper batsman Sarfraz Ahmed at the top of the order. "We want to go in with genuine openers and want the first four batsmen settled before going to the World Cup," said Misbah, who praised New Zealand as a dangerous side.

"New Zealand have adaptability and they have allrounders and good spinners who can win matches for their team," said Misbah.

Pakistan have been missing ace spinner Saeed Ajmal, suspended for an

illegal bowling action two months ago and their problems were further compounded when all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez's action was also reported last month.

A report on Hafeez's action is expected next week and if he is suspended, Misbah believes it will hurt his team's balance.

"We were jolted after Ajmal's suspension and if Hafeez is not there then our balance will be affected," admitted Misbah.

New Zealand's stand-in captain Kane Williamson -- Brendon McCullum left after the Tests to prepare for the home series against Sri Lanka -- said Pakistan remain a dangerous side even without Ajmal.

"We know it's a big challenge because Pakistan play well here, they have depth and even without Ajmal whichever side they put out is strong," said Williamson.

New Zealand play two Tests and seven one-day internationals against Sri Lanka starting later this month.

"There is so much cricket before the World Cup and this series is the focus but we are conscious of the big event," said Williamson.

All-rounder Corey Anderson will return after missing the second Twenty20 as a precautionary measure after being hit by a bouncer in the first Twenty20 on Thursday, but opener Martin Gupthill is still being monitored for a tight hamstring.

The remaining one-day matches will be played in Sharjah (December 12 and 14) and Abu Dhabi (December 17 and 19).

### Crosswords

#### Quiz No-576



#### Answers of the Quiz No-577



#### DOWN

Cumberbund 2. 3. 3. Harvest 4. Savvy about 5. Noodles 6. Not often 7. A part of a broadcast serial 8. Hindu princess 9. Sarcois 10. Noteworthy 11. Small egg 12. Test versions 13. Vestibule 21. What we are 25. Not difficult 26. Sage 27. A rigid circular band 28. Decorative case 29. An observation tower 34. Emetics 36. Swiped 37. Border 38. Not the original color 40. Largest continent 42. Approaches 45. Parody 48. Fedora 51. They hold up heads 52. Panache 53. Pincer 55. An analytic literary composition 58. 5280 feet 59. Unit of land 60. Feathery scarves 61. Attraction 62. Historical periods

#### ACROSS

1. Razor sharpener 6. Slave 10. Gown 14. Sporting venue 15. Iridescent gem 16. Not odd 17. Chairs 18. Not yours 19. Mongrel 20. Supposition 22. Winglike 23. Car 24. Unorthodox tenets 26. Exclamation of relief 30. Central 31. Long-haired wild ox 32. Greek letter 33. Ends a prayer 35. Filled to excess 39. Cassock 41. Any person 43. Long stories 44. Swing around 46. Balcony section 47. Best seller 49. An Old Testament king 50. Barely managed 51. Ambrosia 54. No more than 56. Reflected sound 57. Unsurmountable 63. A ball of yarn 64. King of the jungle 65. Scrub 66. Cabbagelike vegetable 67. Smudge 68. A kind of macaw 69. Sun 70. Cravings 71. Affirmatives



Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, Managing Director & CEO of The Trust Bank Limited inaugurates Banks Habiganj Branch.

## Trust Bank Limited opens formally its Habiganj Branch

### Business Desk

HABIGANJ : Trust Bank Limited opened formally its Hobigonj Branch on Thursday.

Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, Managing Director & CEO of The Trust Bank Limited inaugurated Banks Hobigonj Branch.

MP of the local region, Shekil Chowdhury Chairperson of Center for NRB, Masud Chowdhury Cluster Head of The Sylhet Region, local business

man, local government people and senior official of the bank were also present in this grand occasion.

Build a long-term sustainable financial institution through financial inclusion and deliver optimum value to all stakeholders with the highest level of compliance

Long Term Sustainable Growth-diversified business with robust risk management

Financial Inclusion- bring unbanked population into banking network

through low cost and technology based service delivery

Accountable to all stakeholders-customers, shareholders, employees & regulators

Highest level of compliance and transparency at all levels of operation

Trust Bank is a contemporary, upbeat brand of distinctive quality of service and solution that offers a rewarding banking experience as preferred choice of banking partner every time, every where.

## Hackers threaten Sony staff in new email

LOS ANGELES: Sony Pictures staff received a threatening email Today claiming to be from the hackers who breached the entertainment giant's computer network, reportedly with warnings that they and their families were "in danger."

The email from a group calling itself Guardians of Peace (GOP) also warned that "all hope will leave you and Sony Pictures will collapse," according to the industry journal Variety, reports AFP/BSS.

A Sony Pictures spokesman confirmed to AFP the threatening email that was sent to some staff, but not the nature of the threat.

"We understand that some of our employees have received an email claiming to be from GOP. We are aware of the situation and are working with law enforcement," the spokesman said. Sony Pictures earlier this week

confirmed the hack attack, calling it a "brazen" effort that netted a "large amount" of confidential information, including movies, as well as personnel and business files.

It is not clear who GOP are, but Sony Pictures has downplayed a report that North Korea was behind the attack.

The spokesman, Robert Lawson, did not verify the full content of the threatening email, but a transcript published by Variety warned that, "removing Sony Pictures on earth is a very tiny work for our group which is a worldwide organization.

"What we have done so far is only a small part of our further plan. It's your false if you think this crisis will be over after some time. All hope will leave you and Sony Pictures will collapse."

In clearly non-native English it continued: "Many things beyond imagination will happen at many

places of the world. Our agents find themselves act in necessary places.

Please sign your name to object the false of the company at the email address below if you don't want to suffer damage. If you don't, not only you but your family will be in danger."

According to security researchers, the Sony hackers leaked sensitive personal information on some 47,000 individuals, including celebrities.

An analysis by the security firm Identity Finder found full names, social security numbers, birth dates and home addresses, allowing "a clear path for criminals intent on committing identity fraud."

The researcher found 601 files containing this data including spreadsheets and Word documents. They said more than 15,000 of the social security numbers belonged to current or former Sony employees.



Women in Europe may be better educated or work harder than men.

## ILO investigates, Women in Europe 'better educated but paid less'

Women in Europe may be better educated or work harder than men, but they are paid substantially less, according to the International Labour Organization, reports AP.

The gender pay gap in Europe ranges from about 100 euros (£79) to 700 euros per month, the ILO report suggested.

In the UK, women earn about 28% less than men on average, the UN body found. In all the countries studied around the world, a proportion of the pay gap is unexplained, implying discrimination, it said.

"The actual gap varies from about 4% to 36% across all of the 38 countries we looked at," ILO economist Kristen Sobeck told the

BBC World Service.

Discrimination?

In Europe in 2010, the bottom-earning 10% of women workers earned about 100 euros per month less than the bottom 10% of men.

And the top 10% of high-earning women earned close to 700 euros per month less than the top 10% of men.

The ILO looked at education, experience, seniority, work sector, location and work intensity. It found that in about half of the countries studied around the world women had a stronger or better combination of those characteristics, yet were paid substantially less than men.

"For example, in the case of Sweden, what we see is that the

overall gap is about 4%, but when you look at the characteristics of women and what they would be paid otherwise, the gap would turn the other way, and women would actually earn about 12% more than men," Ms Sobeck said.

In the UK, about one-third of the pay gap can be explained by men having attributes such as more experience or more seniority, but there is still "a huge gap" that Ms Sobeck said could be due to discrimination.

The ILO recommended a number of ways to overcome the difference in pay between men and women, including wage policies and equality legislation.

## Dow, S&P hit new records after robust US jobs report

NEW YORK: The Dow and the S&P 500 climbed modestly to fresh record highs Today after a blockbuster US labor report showed widespread jobs growth in November, reports AP.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 58.69 points (0.33 percent) at 17,958.79, topping its Wednesday mark by about 46 points.

The broad-market S&P 500 index added 3.32 (0.16 percent) at 2,075.24, also a record, and the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index rose 11.32 (0.24 percent) to 4,780.76. The Dow capped the first week of December closing just shy of the 18,000 mark after the Labor Department reported the economy added a much stronger-than-expected 321,000 jobs in November, the best jobs growth in nearly three years.

Upward revisions of the prior two months added a combined 44,000 jobs and brought the yearly average to 241,000 a month.

Despite the jobs data coming in far better than analysts expected, the stock market struggled to find direction before following financials higher, Briefing.com analysts said in a market note.

"The lack of broad strength following a solid jobs report was a reflection of concerns that the Fed may be inclined to hike the fed funds rate sooner than the market expected," they said.

The jobs report came less than two weeks before the Federal Reserve's next monetary policy meeting. The Fed has signaled it would raise its federal funds rate from near zero in mid-2015, depending on economic performance.

Other economic data were

### Dollar gains on robust US jobs report

NEW YORK: An unexpectedly strong US jobs report Today sent the dollar sharply higher against the euro, yen and other majors, reports AFP/BSS.

The US economy's ability to churn out some 321,000 news jobs in November -- 90,000 more than had been predicted--underscored the country's divergence with Europe and Japan, both fighting off stagnation.

The jump in job creation raised the chance, some analysts guessed, of an acceleration in the Federal Reserve's move toward an interest rate hike, currently forecast for the middle of 2015.

Yields on medium-term Treasury bonds shot up 10 basis points on the data, showing market expectations for an earlier rate rise.

### S&P 500 delivers seventh straight weekly gain

NEW YORK: A surprisingly strong US jobs report for November powered US stocks to another record performance Today, with the S&P 500 registering its seventh straight weekly gain, reports AFP/BSS.

Wall Street shares continued to take the good news as good for all -- more jobs, cheaper oil, stronger growth even as it raised the chance of earlier and sharper interest rate rises next year.

And, on the 18th anniversary Friday of then-Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan's ominous warning of "irrational exuberance" in markets, the Street chose to ignore questions of rising risk-taking.

Instead, the week saw the S&P add 0.4 percent to a new closing record of 2,075.37, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average picked up 0.7 percent to a fresh mark of 17,958.79.

mixed. The US trade deficit

narrowed to \$43.4 billion in October due to increased exports, while factory orders fell for the third consecutive month.

Financial stocks were big gainers. Dow members Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase were up 1.8 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively. Bank of America

gained 2.7 percent.

Oil giant Chevron was the blue-chip index's biggest laggard, losing 1.3 percent on falling oil prices.

Tech titan Apple fell 0.4 percent as media reported that a class-action lawsuit over iPods may be thrown out.

Discount retailer Big Lots dived 16.6 percent after reporting a wider-than-

expected net loss of \$3.4 million for the third quarter.

Burger King Worldwide rose 0.4 percent after saying it expects to close its deal to buy Canadian coffee-and-donut chain Tim Hortons by December 12. The fast-food chain also announced a joint venture to grow business in Italy, Poland, Greece and Romania.



Major General Mizanur Rahman Khan, ndc, afwc, psc Area Commander, Logistics Area, Dhaka and Vice President, Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment inaugurate the tournament.

## Mobil Cup Golf Tournament 2013-14 held

### Business Desk

DHAKA : Three days long "9th Mobil cup golf tournament 2014" commenced on 3rd of Dec 2014 at Kurmitola Golf Course. Major General Mizanur Rahman Khan, ndc, afwc, psc Area Commander, Logistics Area, Dhaka and Vice President, Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment inaugurated the tournament as chief guest. Azam 3 Chowdhury, Managing Director, MJL Bangladesh Limited, Tanjil Chowdhury, Director, MJL Bangladesh Limited Md. Sanaul Hague, CEO, MJL Bangladesh Limited, Brg. Gen. Abidur Reza Khan (Rtd), Chairman Tournament Committee, senior officers of Bangladesh Armed

Forces & MJL Bangladesh Limited were among others present in this occasion. Prize giving ceremony and the closing session of "9th Mobil Cup Golf Tournament 2014" held on Friday at Banquet Hall of Kurmitola Golf Club, reports in press release. Chief Guest of the ceremony Major General Mizanur Rahman Khan, ndc, afwc, psc Area Commander, Logistics Area, Dhaka and Vice President, Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment distributed the prizes among the winners. Azam 3 Chowdhury, Managing Director, M3L Bangladesh Limited, Tanjil Chowdhury, Director, MJL Bangladesh Limited delivered their speech in the ceremony.

## \$16.46mn approved for PIA to induct 15 aircraft on dry lease

ISALAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Saturday approved first tranche of \$16.46 million to Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) for the induction of 15 aircraft in its fleet on dry lease, reports PPI.

On a proposal moved by the Aviation Division, the ECC, which met here with Federal Minister for Finance Senator Ishaq Dar in the chair, approved in principle release of the first tranche for December out of total \$52 million requested by the PIA.

This amount would be injected as equity by the government, said the ministry of finance in a press release.

The ECC constituted a committee comprising Secretary Finance, Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and Secretary Petroleum and Natural Resources to analyse financial statements and projections before the second tranche was released.

The meeting decided that the PIA would revert to ECC after December 20 when the amount granted had been fully exhausted for the fresh installments, which would be paid on monthly basis as per requirement.

The meeting directed the PIA authorities to inform the forum at least two weeks before the actual payments were due so that the timely release of funds was made possible.

The committee also approved the

establishment of Inland Container Terminal in Sialkot under the Customs Act 1969 as addition of one more inland container terminal in the city would not only provide facilitation to exporters but would also improve services because of healthy competition.

The ECC also approved the allocation of gas from existing and new gas fields as requested by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources. According to the approved plan, 30 MMCFD additional Adhi gas was to be allocated to SNGPL enabling it to meet its existing contractual obligations.

One MMCFD Gopang gas and 02 MMCFD Nim-01 gas respectively was allocated to SSGCL. The consistent decline in the level of gas production from the existing fields has triggered a huge gap between demand and supply of gas on natural gas distribution system.

The meeting was also informed that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources has been vigorously pursuing LNG import and transnational gas pipeline projects, which would help sustain supplies to the system.

Finance Minister Dar on this occasion reiterated that proposals submitted to the ECC must properly reflect the financial implications of the projects and encompass all related aspects.



The ECC has approved in principle release of the first tranche for December out of total \$52 million requested by the PIA. PPI

From Page-1

Both nations are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Palak said the government

Mobile penetration also has increased significantly in the past couple of years as the number of mobile subscribers is nearly 11.87 crore. "These remarkable successes in the ICT sector have been achieved due to visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," Palak added.

"We want either the government or any local entrepreneur to come up with financial support to make it commercially viable," said Shahid Hossain, the inventor of the technology styled 'Heavy Circular Moving Object's Triggering Energy (HECMOTE)'. He made the funding pitch while addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club on Saturday. Renowned scientist Professor Dr. Shamsher Ali is endorsing the new

Speaking at the press conference, Dr. Shamsher Ali, a former president of Bangladesh Science Society, said he has been supporting the idea as a new breakthrough in electricity generation.

**From page-1**

General Secretary of Rangpur district unit of BCL Fakhrul Hassan Lieu attended the occasion and led a rally in the campus as the chief guest with Carmichael College unit BCL President Rafiur Rahman Rafi in the chair.

From page-1

Approached, the Indians agreed to a 4-hour temporary air ceasefire but for some strange reason the American evacuation plane never appeared.

The Pakistanis always thought they were at par with India, at least militarily.

"We have confirmed his position through mobile phone tracking but the abductors changed their places again and again after sensing the presence of law enforcers," DIG said.

pirates beat my employees at my Koyra shrimp gher around 3.am on November 28. The pirates kidnapped me at gun point as I came out from my room after hearing hue and cry of my employees".



## Date : 04-12-2014

## KEY INFORMATION

## PARTICULAR INFORMATION

20.	Name & Address of the office(s)	

	Opening Tender Document	Conference Room, Bangladesh Television, Television Bhaban, Rampura,
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## INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

25	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 5000.00 (Five Thousand)
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Lot	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount in	Completion
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27.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Kazi Solaiman
-----	----------------------------------	---------------

(Project Director)

GD-1736/14 (10"x4)

## Date : 27-11-2014

4.	Tender Packages Name	:	Procurment of Grain Moisture Meter (GMM).
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7.	Source of Funds	:	Government of Bangladesh.
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10.	Tender last Selling Date	:	30-12-2014 up to 5.00 PM
-----	--------------------------	---	--------------------------

13	Price of Tender Document	·	Tk. 1000.00 Taka (One Thousand Taka)
----	--------------------------	---	--------------------------------------

15	Brief description of Grain Moisture	As indicated in the Tender Document
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16.	Englishity of Tender	:	As indicated in the Tender Document
17.	Name and Address of the Office (s)	:	Dr. Mohammad Shafiqul Islam Project Director

Region of Bangladesh Front Building 5th floor, Room No  
728 Khamarbari Farmgate Dhaka-1215

Receiving Tender Documents	Agricultural Support for Smallholders in South-western Region of Bangladesh Front Building, 6th floor, Room No.
----------------------------	--

19.	Name and Address of Office(s) Opening	:	Dr. Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, Project Director,
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	728, Khamarbari, Farm gate, Dhaka-1215.
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21.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	:	Dr. Mohammad Sharique Islam.
22.	Address of Official Inviting tender	:	Agricultural Support for Smallholders in South Western

			728, Khamarbari, Farm gate, Dhaka-1215.
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	E-mail : pdassrbp@gmail.com
--	-----------------------------

26	The authority will preserve the Right to Accept for Reject of any Tender of Tenders
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20. The authority will preserve the right to accept or reject or any tender or tenders.

(Dr. Mohammad Shafiqul Islam)

Project Director,  
Agricultural Support for Smallholders in  
South-Western Region of Bangladesh  
Khamarbari, Farm gate, Dhaka-1215.



**Motorcyclists carrying children and exposing them to serious risks of accidents is a common picture in the city.**  
Photo : Banglar Chokh

## AL leader injured in gun attack in Laxmipur

LAXMIPUR : A local leader of ruling Awami League sustained bullet injuries in a gun attack by unidentified miscreants at Latifpur village in Sadar upazila on Saturday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Faruk Hossain, vice-president of Chandraganj union unit AL.

Police said a group of criminals swooped on Faruk in the area and fired several shots at him while he was going to a local market from his house, leaving him critically injured.

He was rushed to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Upon hearing the news, activists of the fronts AL blocked the Laxmipur-Chowmuhan Road for one hour protesting the attack.

On information, police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Chandraganj Police Station, confirmed the attack.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area.

Additional policemen have been deployed in the area to fend off further trouble.

## Rana Plaza Compensation ILO to start disbursement process by Dec

DHAKA : The disbursement process of the ILO-managed Rana Plaza Trust Fund to compensate the Rana Plaza victims will start by this month, said the apparel trade body chief here on Saturday. "I had a discussion with the ILO country director 10 days back, reports UNB.

They'll start the disbursement process by December," Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President M Atiqul Islam told a press conference at the BGMEA conference room.

The BGMEA arranged the press conference to brief the media about the preparations of the first-ever Dhaka Apparel Summit beginning in the city on Sunday.

BGMEA first vice president Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, second vice president SM Mannan (Kochi), vice president M Shahidullah Azim and other BGMEA leaders were present.

Atiqul Islam said the International Labour Organization (ILO) has so far got a fund of US\$ 21 million to be disbursed among the victims. "They're in discussion with us on the disbursement process."

The BGMEA Chief said they urged ILO Country Director Srinivasa Reddy to

take initiative for early completion of the disbursement process.

He informed that the BGMEA has already spent Tk over 15.5 crore after the Rana Plaza building collapse.

There supposed to be a fund of US\$40 million as promised by international retailers and brands.

## One more BCL man held over SUST violence

SYLHET : Police arrested an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in connection with the organisation's infighting at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) from Jugipara village in the city on Friday night, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Soheli Ahmed alias Rubel, 26, son of late Nazir Mia, a resident of the area.

Jakir, sub-inspector of Jalalabad Police Station, said watching the video footage of the incident, a team of police conducted a raid at the village and arrested Soheli on Friday night.

On November 20, Sumon Das, 22, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was killed and 20 others were injured in a factional clash of the ruling party's student wing over establishing supremacy on the SUST campus.

Later, the authorities announced closure of the university for an indefinite period.

## PM to inaugurate Centre for Excellence today

DHAKA : Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate a research unit, titled 'Centre for Excellence for Bangladesh Apparel Industry (CEBAI)', in the city on Sunday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), has taken the CEBAI initiative in an effort to produce skilled manpower for the country's ready-made garment industry.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate the centre while attending the inaugural session of the first-ever Dhaka Apparel Summit that begins in the city on Sunday, said BGMEA president M Atiqul Islam.

"We don't have any alternative other than proper utilization of human resources through developing their skills," he said.

The BGMEA chief said all types of training will be provided from the centre which will help enhance workers skills contributing to enhancing productivity in the RMG sector.

## FM meets Bhutanese PM

DHAKA : Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali on Saturday met visiting Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, reports UNB.

They discussed various issues of mutual interest during the meeting that started at 12:30pm at city's Sonargaon Hotel and lasted for about half an hour, said a senior official at the Foreign Ministry.

The Bhutanese Prime Minister arrived here this (Saturday) morning on a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, aiming to give the relations between the two neighbouring nations a stronger footing.

This is Tobgay's first visit to Bangladesh since he assumed office in July 2013.

## Bergman's conviction chills speech: Int'l rights groups

DHAKA : The conviction of journalist David Bergman on contempt charges by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) further shrinks the narrowing space for observers to comment on the war crimes proceedings, said three international rights groups, reports UNB.

The Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Commission of Jurists made the observation on Friday.

Bergman was sentenced to a symbolic "simple imprisonment till the rising of the court" and a fine of Taka 5,000 (about US\$56) for comments he made in three separate blog postings regarding legal proceedings before the ICT.

"Rather than respecting the right to freedom of expression, the ICT has used contempt of court proceedings against some of its critics, and those who are convicted have no right of appeal," said Richard Bennett, Asia-Pacific director at Amnesty International.

"The conviction of Bergman sends a chilling message to journalists and human rights defenders that the ICT will not tolerate fair criticisms."

In its judgment the court found that Bergman's questioning of whether there was an established number of war killed "disgraces



**David Bergman**

and demeans the nation's wishes and holy emotion" and that it was based on "malicious intent" designed to "scandalize" the court, and ordered him to refrain from writing on "historically settled issues."

The ICT further ruled that there was no legitimate public interest in Bergman's article on either this matter or on the question of the legality of in absentia trials, the subject of another blog post.



**Rab-3 arrested a woman named Marzia Jannat Rupa, who tried to loot money from Bangladesh Bank by calling the Governor in disguise of the younger sister of prime minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday. Photo : Banglar Chokh**

## Bangladesh-India relations now brighter than ever: Sandip

DHAKA : Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Sandeep Chakraborty said the relation between Bangladesh and India is now in a brighter state than ever, reports BSS.

"Terrorism and militancy will never be able to rise in this region as these two brotherly nations will continue their joint actions against the menace" he said.

The Indian envoy came up with the observations while addressing a discussion organized by Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee in the city.

Presided over by Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, widow of martyr Dr Alim Chowdhury, the discussion titled "Bangladesh-India Friendship and Regional Security" was addressed by acting president of Nirmul Committee Prof Muntassir Mamun, writer and rights activist Rabindranath Tribedi, Syed Mahbubur Rashid, Mamtaz Latif, among others.

"The victory in 1971 came as the valiant Freedom Fighters and Indian forces complemented each other very well in the war," Sandeep added.

Professor Muntassir Mamun said the Bengali nation will gratefully remember the glorious role played by Indian army and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the War of Liberation in 1971.

## Govt's aggressive attitude may dent BD-US ties: BNP

DHAKA : Castigating the government high-ups for making 'derogatory' remarks about the US and its diplomats, BNP on Saturday feared such an attitude of the regime may dent Bangladesh's diplomatic ties with America, reports UNB.

The party termed devoid of diplomatic etiquette Awami League secretary general Syed Ashrafur Islam's comment about US Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal and said his remark also exposed government's position in favour of racism.

"The bilateral ties mean not only economic relations. Instead, there're many other things in it. When a government shows such an attitude towards any country it casts a negative impact on diplomatic ties," said BNP vice chairman Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury.

He came up with the remarks at a press conference of BNP at its chairperson's Gulshan office.

Mobin called upon the government to refrain from showing negative attitude towards any country and stop diplomatic falsehood.

Echoing Mobin BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir who was present at the press

meet also said the way Prime Minister talked about US it may hurt the bilateral and diplomatic ties with the super power.

Addressing a press conference on Friday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina claimed that the US had made all sorts of attempts to stop the January 5 election. "The US didn't support us during our Liberation War, but the country has been liberated. The US made all sorts of attempts to prevent the January 5 election, but they couldn't stop it."

Hasina further said, "It would be wrong to think we'll survive if any particular country remains with our side, and will die if they move away. I want to tell every citizen of Bangladesh, this is an independent, sovereign country. It's better not to think that Bangladesh can't survive without any particular country."

Earlier referring to BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia's meetings with US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal, Syed Ashrafur Islam said a two-time prime minister was seen on TV sitting like a kid in front of Biswal as if the American official would hand her power right away. He also called Biswal a minister of little worth.

## Luxurious Artificial Island in Qatar

INTERESTING NEWS

The Pearl-Qatar in Doha, Qatar, is a luxurious residential complex that is being developed on an artificial island, off the coast of Doha's West Bay. The 4-square-km island created on reclaimed land has 32 kilometers of new coastline lined with private villas, dozens of apartment's towers and hundreds of homes, along with luxury hotels and opulent stores and restaurants. As of spring 2012, more than 5,000 residents have already moved in. When construction completes by 2015, the island will have room for 41,000.



The Pearl-Qatar is one of the most ambitious development project in Qatar, and the first development to offer freehold and residential rights to international clients.

The development's name "Pearl" refers to the major pearl-diving industry that used to be based on the shallow seabed where the island is being built.

Qatar was one of the major pearl traders of Asia before the Japanese introduced cheaper more affordable pearls just before Qatar's oil boom. The island's design also resemble a string of pearls.

## Stage set for first-ever Dhaka Apparel Summit to kick off

DHAKA : The stage is set to host the first-ever Dhaka Apparel Summit beginning on Sunday which is expected to work out a sustainable plan for the sector's further growth, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the event to be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the morning.

"We want to tell the international community that Rana Plaza incident doesn't reflect the exact scenario of the RMG sector. This sector has many success stories and there has been massive progress," Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President M Atiqul Islam told a press conference on Saturday.

BGMEA first vice president Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, second vice president SM Mannan (Kochi), vice president M Shahidullah Azim and other BGMEA leaders were present.

The BGMEA president said most of the international

al guests are already in the city while the rest are expected to arrive before the Summit begins. "Some 21 American and 44 European brands are already in town."

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, State Minister for Labour and Employment M Mujibul Haque Chunnun, Chief executive Officer of the HSBG Francois de Maricourt, Parliamentary State Secretary, German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, European Parliament Member Jean Lambert and Alliance for Bangladesh Workers Safety Chair Ellen Tauscher, among others, will address in the inaugural session of the three-day event.

Organisers said the Summit will showcase Bangladesh's progress in the vital ready-made garment sector and work out a plan to reach a US\$ 50-billion export landmark by 2021.